



THE RAVEVENS Almanacke

Foretelling of a { Plague,
Famine, and
Ciuill Warre.

That shall happen this present yeare
1609. not only within this Kingdome of great
Brittaine, but also in *Frante, Germany, Spayne, &c*
other parts of Christendome.

With certaine remedies, stiles, and receipts,
*how to prevent or at least to abate the edge of these
vniuersall Calamities.*



LONDON

Printed by *E. A.* for *Thomas Archer*, and are to sold at
his shop in the *Popes-head-Palace*, neere the Royall
Exchange, 1609.



To the Lyons of the VVood (the
young Courtiers) to the wil'd Buckes of the For-
rest (the gallants and younger Brothers) to the Hartes
of the field, and to all the whole Countrie that are
brought vp wisely, yet prove Gallies and are
borne rich, yet dye beggers: the newe
English Astrologer dedicateth
his Rauen's Almanacke.



You Lyons of the Wood! you young Cour-
tiers, that are kept warme vnder the winges
of Princes and Kings of Christendome, well
may I call you the Lyons of the Wood: for
this yeare of 1609 shall you range vp and
downe the woods Parkes and Chases, which
were left vnto you by your Ancesters, full of tall Trees, that
stood like so many armed men to defend your Noble houses
from falling, and your Countrey from the colde stormes of
winter: But now I say, and prophesie it, with a Rauen-like
voice, that like Lyons rob'd of their young, shall you get vp
and downe, madding and raging to see your ancient honours
defaced and the memorye of your fore fathers buried as it
were (so farre forth as the crueltie of these latter deuouring
daies could reach vnto) even vnder the rootes of those stately
Oakes, whose gloryes they rayed to a full height, but now
haue their heades hid beneath the earth. The propertie of a
Lyon is to feare a Cocke, So like wise shall you this yeare (if
not be affraid) yet be loath to hear the voyces of meerces, tay-
lors,

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lors, haberdashers, Sempsters, &c. who like Cocks, will I gather by the sides of my Arre, stand crowing betimes at your Chamber dores for money. And like a Bell-man (with papers in their hands) watch to strike you downe with heavy and vnconscionable Items. Gather your selues therefore together in heards, and like Lyons in leed fright them with your futtle lookes, or els like Elephants carrie whole Castles on your backs, and furnish those cattles with good store of gold and silver, so will they be affraid to assault you: let not your strength or couragelye altogether like the Lyons in your taile, but rather in the paw: Stretch forth that boldly, and whatsoeuer it fastens vpon (albeit it should be a whole Lordship, yet let it not goe till you haue torne it in sunder, and made it more leuell then *Salisbury-plaine*: and O you the Wilde Buckes of the Forrest (I meane the Gallants and yonger Brothers of this or any other kingdome) looke that you preserve well the hornes of that aboundance, left vnto you by your scaping and carefull Fathers, least they fall into the handes of Vsurers (who commonly are the keepers of your Lands) as forfeits, or rather (as their see:) make the pales of their parkes where you run hye, that neither you breake out of them, nor others breake them down and so scatter you. Suffer no rascal deer to run amongst you, that is to say, no Pandars, Buffons, English Guls, nor Parasites: beate vp your heads brauely, and not too proudly, for I finde by the conuunction of some planets, that this yeare many of you will be hunted by Marshalls men, Bayliffes and Catch-poles: and that some will be driven to take scyle in the bottomles riuers of the two Counters, they will so hardly be pursued either by Greyhounds of that breed, or else by Fleete-houndes, whose feete are as swifte and sent as good.

I finde likewise that a number of you will fall into certaine toyles, which shalbe pitched day and night for you, by certaine greedie hunters called Punks: they are not much differing from Witches, for they take vpon them sometimes the shapes

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shapes of Beastes, and being amongst your Heards, are stricke instead of Does; but they proue barren Does, yet are they of the nature of Dogges, and more nimble then Norfolk Tumblers, and more eager then blood-hounds, if they haue their game before them.

O You likewise the Hares of the field! that is to say, the Punies and young Frye of the Lawe, to you among the rest doth my Rauē open her Bill: Listen therefore to her ominous voyce, for she prognosticateth that many plagues will fall vpon you.

Read you only the Dog-daves of this Almanacke, for whē the Sunne entreth into Leo, and that is in the middle of the yeare, and out of trarmer time, you shall finde it will be exceeding hot walking vp and downe Fleet-street and Holborne, especially for those that all this last Christmas haue given out in Cheapside amongst the Mercers, that they must be Reuellers.

It is threatned also by those Celestiall influences, that work not in heauen for nothing, that you will this yeare by reason of certaine bitter frosts which shall driue you to drinke burnt Sacke, and rather desire to plead at a Teuerne Barre, and wrangle for a reckoning, then at a Wewinster Barre and weare your Gownes thred-bare, by shouldring one another about Clyants causes, and that yet not-with-standing, you shall so plie the Cases of the Common Lawe, that you shall note as well in Tearme-time, as in the vacation, till you haue no Feathers left on your backes: howbeit I note and finde it written by an olde Iewish Rabben, that you shall be lustie enough for all your sweatings and moylinges, and so full of health, that you will scorne to keep your beds, but for more securitie, put the Brokers in Long-lane in trust to keepe them for you.

I read likewise, that you will be so haunted with vayneglorie, phantasticalitie, Pride, Braggatisme, Apishnes of wit, ridiculous maners, swaggering, & a thousand such byangles,

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that you will be glad to leaue all forme (like a Hare being frighted with the yelping of a kennell of Houndes) Besides, it is quoted by the best Star-gazers, and *Erra Pater*, being egregiously weath' beaten to this Science, doth as I remember constantly affirme it, that *Littleton* for all his Lawe, shall in Michaelmas Terme next, be not only thrust out of Commons, but being found lying poorly (in a plaine sute of sheeps skin) vpon a stall, shall not be worth sixe pence.

As for you that are to be my quarter Patrons, or the fourth sharers in this my Dedication, You that are the meere Sonnes of Citizens, who neuer heard any Musique but the sound of Bow bells: you that all your liues time scarce trauell to *Gravesend*, because you are sworne to keepe within the compasse of the Freedome: You whose wittes wrestle only for two wayes, monye, and to beare Offices in the Parish, I place you in the latter end of this preface to the *Roman Almanack*, though you deserue to stand like dominical Letters (at the beginning of euery weeke in red) because you are of the golden age, or rather you are the Golden number to 1609. Yet giue me leaue to tell you, that this yeare will bring many miseries vpon your heads, yet shall it happen well enough to many of your fraternitie, because euery when those stormes are vpon coming, which by all Astrologicall predictions must happen, you will be sure and so wise, as to hide your heads, and not put them out a doores. Beware of combinations, conspiracies, and Copartnerships, knit amongst your selues for the surprising of *Plutus* the God of riches: for let the league be neuer so strongly tyed, yet it is thought, that at the least foure times in the yeare some of you will breake.

To bring which stratagem the better to passe, I meane that of vndermyning, breaking in vpon you, and blowing you vp, I finde that not onely Courtiers but also Captaines and your best men of war, will neuer giue ouer till they be great in your bookes, and when you haue put most trust in them, then wil they get the gates of the Citie, yllue brauely forth to saue them.

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themselves. leaving you to the mercy of your cruell enemies,
Serjeants and Creditors.

Thus haue I drawne a payre of In'entures *quadrupartite*,
betweene you my worthyest and most open-handed Patrons,
sealing you vp all foure together, in the bondes of my leue, I
bestowe vpon you this first Chicken of mine, hatched out of
my Astronomicall-braine-pan. And because euery Alma-
nacke makes as it were a Stage-play of the yeare, deviding it
into foure partes, or rather playes the Executioner with it by
cutting it into quarters, • To each one of you doe I therefore
send a quarter: Climbe vp then and beholdewhat nest my
Rauen hath builded this yeare 1609. but carry the mindes &
manhood of true Patrones, neither suffer any Critickes to
plucke off her feathers, nor offer you vnto her that indignity
your selues. And thus, because much soile weather is to-
ward (if my Calender tell no lyes) and that I am loath to
haue you stand in a storme, I bid you farewell. Dated

the first Ides of the first month of this first
great Platonickall and terrible
yeare. 1609.

T. Deckers.





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The Dominion of the Moone in Mans body.



At the beginning of every Almanack, it is the fashion to haue the body of a man drawne as you see, & not only baited, but bitten & shot at by wild beasts & monsters. And this fellow, they that lye all y^r ye long (y^e is to say, those that deale with Balenets) call the man of the moon, or the mons man, or y^e man to whom the Moone is mistress. But how ridiculous a shape doe they bestow vpon the silly wretch? hee standes as if hee had bene some notorious malefactor, and being stript stark naked, to go to execution: do not those reūdles hang about him, thew like so many pardons, tyed to the parts of his body with Le bels? or rather does he not looke (when hee lyes along) like a theefe bry'd for an Anatomie in Surgeons Hall, so many Waterers

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argued in those beastes (flaying and slicing, and quartering and cutting him vp: cruelly he does.

But why in the name of the moone, and the rest of the planets do both our p^{ro}phetical & the more antique astronomers publish euery yere in print, that euery mans body dwels thus at 12 signes? Is man such an Ass that hee cannot finde his owne selfe without the help of so manie signes? or were there none but tradesme: in the world, when almanacks were first inuented? for all men know, that Noblemen, Gentlemen, and those of the best and for: moste ranks in any common: wealth vse to dwell at no signe at all: much labour therfore me thinks might be saued by the printers euery yere, and much cost by the Stationers, if they would crosse this poore creature out of their bookes. For what Cuckolde (vnlesse his hoznes hang too much in the light of his wit) will not swear y Aries (which signifies a Ram) doth gouerns the head? Is he not thereupon in mockerie or rather to put him in minde of the points of the Raucens Almanack (cald a Ram-headed Cuckold) And what Butchers wife (nay almoste what Butchers Dog) or what Camster that loues the beare-garden, but knowes that Taurus (the Bul) dominietes ouer the necke, yea, and sometimes breakes the neck of the strongest mastiffe that sets vpon him? Will not the least Fishmongers boy assure you (either in lent or in the open times) that Cancer the Crab is verie good meat for the West, Stomacke and ribs? else whersfore should our Letchers buy them vp so fast? and I pray ask any Wench, if she once arriue at thirteene, if Virgo (the Virgin) beare not a great stroake ouer the bowels and bellye? As for the secret members it may well be saide that Scorpio (the Scorpion) has to do with them, because many times in the yere, they are bitten as it were with the stings of Scorpions, for their euil dwelling. And wisely did the p^{ro}phete appoint it (in the lower house of heauen) that Capricornus the Goat, shold gouerne y knees of Gemini: for the goate being of all beastes most leacherous, it is a morall that those men, who run after nothing but wenches, must (by course of nature) be brought on their knees. Now that Gemini (the Twins) haue a hand ouer the Arms & shoulders either of man or woman: euerie woman that hath had two

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two children at a birth, or euer counte those that hat
 nen sucke to a couple at on time, will I am sure tell like. **Then**
 both Leo, the Lyon, rule the heart and backe: the meaning of
 which is, to make men ashamed of cowardice, whose hearts
 are no bigger then chickens hearts: But what Grocer, Silly
 man, Apothecarie, or any other that handles the scales of Li-
 tie Justice, but can sweare, and al the world knowes they ne-
 uer sweare but truly, that Libra, the Ballance, holds the mea-
 sure of the Keyes and Loynes: so; if those members haue not
 theire full wright, all the bodie paies so; it: as so; the Highest
 ouer which Sagittarius the archer, carries sway, any Fletcher
 in Grub-Street, or any that euer shot in a Long-bowe, either
 at Buts or at pyikes, will if the case were to be decided, stand
 to the prooue therof. The Eggs are next, and that those are go-
 uerned by Aquarius the Waterman, any Sculer, whose legs
 get his liuing by a Stretcher, will not deny it. we are now as
 so; as the feele, whose steps are guided by Pisces, the two
 Fishes, any man that walkes into Fish-Street for a Fish dinner,
 knowes the morrell of that.

And thus haue I shewed vnto you the right natures and
 meanings of these Celestiall Governours, according to that
 true and new Doctrine of the Science Astrologicall, whose
 miseries haue bene so; the good of this yeare 1609 revealed
 to me: and therefore doe I request you my countrymen espe-
 cially, so; whose benefit I haue made onely this psonie search
 amongst the Starres, to account all other quarteringes of
 mans sinfull body, as barbarous and butcherly, and the rules
 that teach how to doe it, scrinulous and ridiculous.

The twelue moneths of this yeare.

1609.

Now if I sought vnder the colours of Vulgar Astrono-
 mers, should I strike vp my Drumme, and lead vnto the
 field the 12. monethes, marching in single file one after an-
 other, euerie month wearing in his Cap inskeede of a feather,
 four vnhantsomerymes, teaching men when to eat hott
 meates.

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meates, and when to drinke new wines with euery gut (that has money in his purse, and hunts out any Hauerne) can do without a Kalender.

Then shold euery moneth haue his followers, some of them being thirtie in number, some 31. only one (by falling into decay, & else because he keepe but a cold house, keeping but 8. And amongst these Serwingmen or retainers, shuld I giue you the names of the Gentlemen who goe in red, and weare Dominicall Letters on their Winter and Sommer liveries, as badges to distinguish their moneth from the rest: but fearing to haue a hand in grinding such base colours, suffer mee to carrie vp your thoughts vpon nimbler wings, where (as if you sat in the moste perspicuous place of the two penny gallerie in a Play-house, you shall cleere see, and with an open eye beholde all the parts, which I (your new Astrologer) ad amongst the Starres, and those are these:

The worky daies of euery month this yeare, shall not be kept as they haue bene in yeares befoze, for by means of certaine diseases, that are likely to raigne amongst trades-men, as the lazie euill, the Aethargie, which is a forgetfulness of our owne estate: bizines of the head, (caused by the fumes of good drinke) and such like: men of occupations shal in spite of order, or the rules of Almanack-writers, turne worky-daies into holly-daies: yea, and women shall this yeare hold holly-daies in such base contempt, that though their husbands doe then shut vp shoppe, and utter not their wares, yet shall the wines fall so worke in their secret Chambers.

Amongst Gentlemen that haue sully purses, and those that are trillill, let the world slide, the work shall run out so quickly and so merrily, that on the Saturday morning it shal be hard so; them to tel whether the day that went befoze were Friday.

The same losse of memorie will fall vpon many that shal go drinke to bed: but to those who shut themselues vp in Counters and other places of deere reckoning because they hate the vanities of the world, and to those that shal be whipped either with French birch, or be stricke with an english disease, the
 Ho:te

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Shortest day in winter shall seeme moze tedious, yea and in drede shall haue more hours then Saint Barnabies day, which is the longest in the yeare: The sundaies, (as if it were Leape yeare) shall by a number be leaped ouer, so that a blindness falling into these eyes, they shall not for foure or five, or six moneths together, be able by the help of those that make the best waters, to recouer sight, or to cure soze eyes) to see a Church, but shall be stricke with such Pegrims and turnings of the haine, that instead of going to Church, they will (if my Arte faile me not) stumble into a Hauerne. The Dog daies will all this yeare raignd thrice, or twice every week at least, & that verie hotly, but their forest rage will be baout the Beare-garden.

As touching the rising and setting of the Sunne, it will bee more strange this yeare then euer it was: for albeit bee Mine neuer so brightly in our Horizon yet there are certain persons (not those no small fooles neither) that shall not haue power at high noone to beholoe it. The Moone (like a Soule) will keep her old byas, onely she will be verie barious in her influence, for as well men as women shall bee moze madde in the other quarters then in that whersin are playd such trickes by the Spidsummer Moone.

I haue a moneths minde to trauell thus thzough the whole yeare, but the glasse which time bestowes vpon me, being not fed with many hoours, I must beere boyll by new Sailes, & discover (as it were foure seuerall countries) the foure Seasons of the yeare.

A Description & prediction of the foure quarters of the
yeare 1609.

Of Winter.

Winter, the twoyne enemy to Summer, the friend to none but Colipers and woodmongers: the frost-bitten shurle y hanges his nose still ouer the fire: the dog that bites
fruits,

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fruits, and the deuill that cuts down trees, the vnconscionable binder by of Wintners faggots, and the onely consumer of burnt sacke and sugar. This Cousen to death, furtherer to sickness, and brother to old age, shall not shew his hoary bald pate in this climat of ours, according to our vsual computation, vpon the 12. day of December, at the first entring of the Sunne into the first minute of the signe Capricorn. when the saide Sunne shall be at the greatest South declination from the Equinoctiall line, and so forth, with much more such stuffe then any meere Englishman can vnderstand: no my countreymen neuer beat the bush so long to finde out Winter, where he lies like a begger shivering with colde, but take these from me as certaine, and most infallible rules: know when winter plomes are ripe and ready to be gathered,

When Charitie blowes her nailes, & is ready to strike, yet not so much as a Witchman will lend her a flap of his freeze Colours to keepe her warme: when tradesmen shut vp shops, by reason their frozen hearted creditors goe about to nip them with beggerie: when the price of Sea-cole riseth, and the price of mens laboures falleth when euerie Chimney calles out smoak, but scarce any dozeopens to cast so much as a maribone to a Dog to gnaw: when beasts die for want of fodder in the field, and men are ready to famish for want of foods in the citie. when the first word that a wench speaks at your coming into her Chamber in a morning is, Prethee send for some faggots, and the best comfort a Lawyer heates you withal is to say, what will you giue me: when olde men and their wiues deuide the holy bed of marriage: when gluttons blow their Pottage to coole them: and Pwenitices blowe their nailes to heat them: and lastly when the Thames is covered ouer with yce, and mens hearts caked ouer and cruised with crueltie: Then maist thou or any man be bolde to sweare tis winter.

Now because I finde in the Ephemerides of heauen, certain vn lucky Criticall, and dangerous daies set down, whose foreheads are full of plagues, and vnder whose winges are hid other dismall miseries, that threaten this Region, It shall not be

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be amisse if first I open the bosom: of winter, and shew vnto you what diseases hang vpon him.

I finde therefore that 12. great and gricuous plagues, shal especially fall vpon the heads of this our English nation: and those are these: v:z.

1. Saint Paulus plague is the first, yea. and one of the heauiest, & this is when a man hath neuer a penny in his purse, credit with his neighbors, nor a hole to hide his head in: alack, how many poore people will lye languishing of this disease: how many that haue bowling alleys, nay, how many that walk in the middle Ile of Paules in reasonable good cloathes, will be stricke with this plague: it is harder to reckon them, then to reckon vpon the virtues of a woman which are without end.

2. Saint Chads plague is next; and that is, when a man that travels hath a long iorney, a tired horse, and little money: this plague threatens many poore Yorkshire Clergyes, and (vnlesse they keepe it off with their hooks) some welchmen.

3. Saint Benets plague is the third, & that is, colds cheare, hot teoyts, and a scoulding wife: many Coblers will be subiect to this disease, but not li. long for it, but every day be of the mending hand, marry it is thought their wines will prooue worse and worse.

4. Saint Magnus plague is next, but not altogether so dangerous as the former, and that is, when a man is rich, enjoys it but a while, and leaues a fowle behinde him to spend it: It is doubted that some rich Citizens and others cannot escape this plague.

5. Saint Ironons plague steps into the fift place, and that is when a man is olde in yeres, yet a childe in discretion: when his wife is a drunkard, and his daughter a wanton, and his seruant a pilferer: this plague is expected to fall vpon brokers, their bodies being subiect to much infection, and their consciences to corruption. So that tis thought Lord haue mercy vpon vs will stand on most of the decoyes in Hounsfitch and Longlane, and that people who loue themselves, will shun these places, and those persons, as being able to poison a whole Citie.

6. Saint

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6. Saint Bridgets plague is like y to be very hot, and that is, when a maid is faire and has no portion, o. tye peares, yet troubled with the greene sicknes, and longs for a husband, yet nobody wross her. This plague of all the rest, though it will spread far, yet will it prooue so mo; tall, because those that shal be stricke with it haue a trick to helpe themselves.

7. The wiues plague followes in the seauenth rancke, and that is, when a woman has a husband y is very po; yet teacions: yong, yet a haffie foole. Seruing mens wiues is thought will die of this disease, o; if not die yet lie for it a long time.

8. The blacke plague is when a man hath much to pay, little to spend, and an Inmercifull Creditor: this black plague will flie ouer into the Lowe-countries, and sorely trouble our English Souldiers, who feed vpon prouant, and take more care how to wipe of Dss in chalke, then to win a towne from the enemye.

9. The Fryers plague, is no holy plague, but a holloos plague, and that is when a man sees o; smells good cheare, has an excellent stomache, but knowes not how to get it: if any coplaine of this sicknes it will be the Guard, and those that are the bare attendants at court, o; else such as walke snuffing bp and doونه in winter eueninges throug Wy. co;ner, yet haue no siluer to stop Colon.

10. The deuils plague is one of the most damned plagues of all, and that is, when a man is married to a wanton, must be beholden to his enemye, yet dares not be reuenged. The tokens of this plague, will stand thicke vpon a number of yong bankrounts who haue had dealing with Courtiers.

11. The Horne plague is too well knowne, and so common, that albeit it be incurable, yet none can dye of it: that aking plague takes a man first in the head, and helickens of it, that is a Cuckold, a Wittall, and a Suffragan: In very many parishes will there be houses infected with this pestilent disease.

12. Gods plague is the last and the most heauy, and that is when a man hath much wealth and no conscience, continuall health but is past grace, and can talke of God, yet keeps company

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peny is (ith the Deuill. This plague soe strikes to the heart, & will strike by many euen of the better sort: Besides these Capitall Plagues there be many boyles; Carbuncles and blisters (not so mortal as the other) that will lye sucking the Lones of the comm. on people: For Hackney-men are like to smarte this yeare, in letting out good Horses to Citizens, & haniing them turned home like tyed Jades, the reason being that Citizens, Schollers, and Sailers thinke a horse neuer goes fast enough though he run a maine gallop and no sooner are they set in the saddle but they ride post.

And sithce vpon Saint Lukes day bitter stormes of winde and haile are likely to happen about Cuckolds haue, it foretelleth with a strange mortality amongst Caterpillers, especially to w: rds Catch poles, who this yeare shall dye so thicke that in all the 24 wardes in London, nor in all the 109. parishes that stand in those wardes, will there bee founde one honest man lining of that clapping location.

Take heede you nimble fingered Gentlemen, that come to your possessions by fine and a reach: you ffoisches, fhips and Cony catchers that sit at Duke Humphreys owne table, and turne your comodities into money vpon the Exchange. I aduise you also purge your soules, and let blood your consciences for otherwise a Hempe plague will so hang vpon you, that the pest cart of Newgate will carrie your bodies away in heapes to be buried vnder Tiborne.

O you common Fiddlers like-wise that scraps out a penny lining out of daped Cats guts: I propherie that many of you shall this yeare be troubled with abhominable noises and singing in your heads, in so much that a great part of you shall dye beggers, and those that suruiue shall feede vpon mclody for want of meate, playing by two of the clock in a frostie morning vnder a Window, and then bee mock'd with a Whilling tyed (though a hole) to a string, which shall bee throwne to make it Jangle in your eares, but presently be drawne by a gaine, whilst you rake in the durt for a largesse.

O You generation of Apes without talles, made so enely to
C
make

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make sporte! you Playes that crye out your commodities: you that feed vpon the hony of other mens wits, yet haue nothing in your bowels but gall: a pte of you will run ouer all your boodies: looke therefore to your selues betimes, and let some skilfull water castter tott by your vinnall: cast away a groate vpon your selues, so many haue bin cast away vpon you: four pny worth of phisicke may do you four pounds worth of good, so I tpe by your colour that you are infected with vnde, loosnes of life, Inconstancy, ingratitude, and such like crude & indigested humors, & reumatick diseases: So that both ptolemy and Auicenna set this downe as a principall, that saint Iulians plague (which is not exempt amongst you yet) shall light on your heads, And that is, you shall weare gay clothes, carry losty lookes, but a nuber of you (especially the hieclings) be with empty purses at least twice a week. But if any of you be so prouident as to whelke bo: omize, or to buy pilles to euacuate these rotten infectious postumes yet he shall not escape this plague, he shall be glad to play thre houres for two pence to the basest Winkard in London, whose breath is stronger then Carduche, and able to poyson all the 12. penny resmes: you see a far off how sharpe a winter wee are like to haue, let vs now tpe if the spring will proue any more cheerefull.

Of the Spring.

Spring the Bride of the Sun, the Rose-gay giuer to Weddings, the only and richest Heerbe-wife in the world: the rarest Gardener, sweetest perfume, cunningst Treasure: noblest Nutrition, so all sorts of Birdes are her Schollers: this mother of health, phisition to the sick, Surgeon to the wounded: this daughter of plenty, and Sister to Summer, comes not in attired in her greene robes, as tis published in print, vpon the 10 days of March, as it were Maies triumph after the Sun (with an Herculean vigo) hath conquered his twelue labours, and (like a skilfull Charioter) hath dyuen his golden

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den waggon through the twelue signes, ready on that tenth day (as some giue out) to begin his race againe. by making his entrance vpon the first minute of the Equinodial signe of the Ram whose hoznes stand in such an even proportion a sundre that the day and night take them so; their measure, and are contented to be of an equall length.

But shall I tel you at what signe the Spring dwelleth: cast vp your eyes and behold. so; by these marks that you know her whē she comes. When the nightingale sits singing with a bz:er at her bz:st, & the adulterer (that rauished philomell) sits singing at the Thornes which pricke his conscience: When young teares put on new lueries, and old whozmongers pull off tiards of their vices: when the earth beares all kindes of flowers, and the Courts of Princes bring forth all sorts of vertue: when Gardens begin to be dressed, and the Church to be mended. when beastes were wanton by nature, (without violating her lators,) only to multiply their kinds for the good of man: when men no longer put themselves into the shapes of beastes. When and onely then doe the vermall gates stre wide open, then maist thou be sure to sweare it is the Spring.

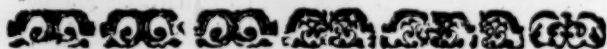
But as your fairest faces haue often times the foulest bodies, so this beautifull daughter of old Ianus (who is Pailler Porter to the twelue months) is by dealing with some felue untolsome Planets, thought not to be free from diseases. A spice therefore of one plague or other, will lie in her tender bones, by wh meane she spring to some people (especially the French, and as it is thought the English cannot goe scot-free) prone as a fall and busie in priuie searches, as the fall of the Leaf.

The bz:ests of this Silkeate young bed-fellows to the Sunne will so slowe with the Pilke of profite and plantys that (of all other men) players by reaso they that haue a hard winter, and must trauell on the hoofs, will lye sucking there for pence and two pences, like young Wiggs at a Sow newly farrowed.

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It is likewile thought that in this time of copulation be-
tweene the planets & the earth, lawyers wil grow vp so thick
that they will scarce liue one by another, & most of them shall
be to their Clients as taxes are to a field of Corne: they shall
prosper best when they choake those by whom they are en-
riched: yet on the contrary side shall maiden heads be so scant,
that if five hundred be to bee had ouer night, foure hundred &
nineteene of those will be struck of before the next morning.

The disposition of this season is to be hot and moit: by which
meanes those moit-handed creatures, whose bloods begin to
feele warmth, when the spring of desire boyles within them,
shall haue the other qualitie like wise, they shall be hot in their
tongues: But if any woman happen to fall into that pestilent
infirmities, let the poore man vpon whose handes any such light
commodities lyes, apply this medicine, for it is a present cure.



A Medicine to cure the plague of a womans tongue, ex-
perimented on a Coblers wife.

A Merry Cobler there was, (dwelling at Ware) who for
Aioy that he mended mens broken & corrupted soles, did
continually sing, so that his shop seemed a verrie bird cage, &
he sitting there in his foule linnen and greasie Apron, shewd
like a black bird. It was this poore Sowters desire not to
be hang'd, but (worse then that) to be married: & to what crea-
ture thinke you, to a faire, to a young to a neate delicate cou-
trie lasse, that for her good partes was able to put to shew all
Ware: but with this homie that staid in her, did there
drop such abundance of gal and poison from her Scorpis-like
tongue, that monsieur Shew-mender with his wife were set
vpon the shortest last, and a thousand times a day was ready
to die Cæsars death: O valiant Cordwainer! and to stab him-
selfe not with a bodkin, but with his furious Aole, because he
knew that would goe through stich: hee neuer toke vp the
endes

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endes of his threed, but he wished those to be the endes of his threed of life: he neuer parde his patches, but he wished his knife to be the sheeres of the fatall scissors three: hee neuer handled his Ball of ware but he compared them to his wife & sighed to think that he that touches pitch, must be defiled.

Now did his songs as heauily come from him as musick does from a fidler, when in a tauerne he plaies for nothing. Now did signient Cobler stand no more on his pantofles, but at his shutting in of shop, could haue bene content to haue had all his neighbours haue throlne his olde shoes after him when hee went home, in signe of good lucke.

But alas, he durst not doe that neither, for shee hat plaide the Deuill in toomans apparrell (his wife I meane) made her Cavalero Cobler, to giue her account euerie night of euerie patch that went through his fingers. In this purgatorie did our graduate in the Gentle craft liue a long time, but at length he was thrust into hell, for his wife (not following the steps of her husband, who was euer on the mending hand, but growing from bad in to worse) cast aside her Wedding stockings & drew on a paire of felloe hose: then was our miserable Cobler more narrowly watched the mouse by a Cat, or a debtor by a Catch-pole: hee durst not vnlock his lippes after a Trench, but his teeth were ready to sie out of his head wth her beating: nor haue touched any Pelticcate but his wife was more dangerous then for a Cat to eate: for if any maide brought her but her shoes to mending, his wife swoore presently that he had the length of her scote, and that he would loue-stiches intoe, vertie peere though it were no bigger then a Chandlers token.

Wearied therefore with this (wo) when a beare-baiting) and being almost worne to the bare bones, his hart fretting out euen to the shoules by rubbing up and downe in this miserie. At the length my braue boote-haler fitted his toots to the vertie bran, for some hooke to fasten into his wifes nostrils, and the pull which he found rather to choake her or purge her, was this:

A Doctor of whome all were in affraid, because the Al-

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care of the towne suck'd more sweetnesse out of his Patients whome he sent to him (by reason all that came vnder his hands, went the way of all flesh) then out of all his tithe. Digo) hapned to dwell close by this distressed Coblcr: to him (having saued his water ouer night) repairs my resourcer of decayed Schoo-leather, betimes in the morning. The Bonjour being giuen and returned, the Coblers water was looked unto, much tossing and tumbling of it there was for a prettie while, and at last it was demaunded whose the Urine should be? Gine (quoth the Coblcr) So it may be coplyed our Galenest, for I speie nither any discaise swimming about thy body in this water, and thy berry looks shew that thou art sound: Sound, cries out the infected Coblcr) alas sir I see now that some diseases haue power to make diuices of Doctors themselves, Sound (quoth a) why sir I am sick at heart, I am struck with the plague, I haue such a plague soze vpon mee (your Doctors Cap is not able to couer it, tis so broade) it eats and spreads more and more into my flesh, and if you apply not some presēt remedie, I dare must I shall trudge to some other, whē their olde shoes want mending: so; the Coblers but a dead man.

At this the Doctor stood amazed, and wondered that his shi should shoote so witte as not to finde out a greefe so common, so dangerous and so palpable: wherevpon he bidding the Coblcr to open his bzell and not to feare to shew him that Plague-soze where of hee so complained: the Coblcr presently tolde him he would but steppe soorth of doozes, and at his returne he should see it: at length, the Coblcr comes backe againe with his wife bozne on his backe like a Sowle new scalded on the back of a Butcher, and so; all her hickinge, rayling, cursing and swearing, yet to the Doctor he came with her, crying looke you heere paister Doctor, this is my plague soze that so; meets mee: in the night it keepest mee from sleepe, in the day it makes me madde: in my bed this serpent sings: me at my boozs she stabs me, and all with one deuon (her villanous tongue, her pashurable tongue) if I
repl'y

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peple the fighes: if I say nothing thee rages: if you call not this a plague *Paſſer Doctor*, then ſuch a plague light on you *Paſſer Doctor*, teach me therefore how to cure it, or elſe if you giue me ouer I ſhall grow deſperate and cut mine owne throat.

The *Doctor* at this laughed, the *Coblers* wife rayled, the *Cobler* himſelfe bid her lye ſtill, & held her ſo long till a number of his neighbours came about him to behold this ſcene of mirth: al of them (knowing how dangerously the *Cobler* was infected with this marriage plague, deſiring the *Doctor* to play the right phiſician, and to cure their neighbour. The *Doctor* heere vpon iurde he would doe it, and ſtepping into his Studie hee returned immediately with a paper in one hand & a faire cudgell in the other, deliuering both to the *Cobler*, profeſſing that neither *Galen*, *Auarois*, nor *Hipocrates* can preſcribe any other remedy then this, and that if this medicine cure not the womans euill, nothing can. The *Cobler* hauing neither the twiſting nor rearing tongue, requeſted the *Doctor* to reade the receipt, as ſo; the cudgell he vnderſtood that wel enough.

The paper therefore after a ſolemne *Yes*, by all the ſtanders by was read, & contained thus much:

Take this ſalue *Cobler* for thy plague-ſore

A crabbed cudgell fits a ſroward whore,

Beate her well and thrifely,

Whiſt ſhe cries out luſtily:

Newer let thy hand giue oere,

Till ſhe ſweares to ſcolde no more.

At the end of this, the audience gaue a plauditie, in token they liked well of the *Doctors* phiſicke: the *Cobler* thanked him, and thus in ſteede of an *Epilogue* ſpoke to his neighbours, neighbours (quod he) you know, & I know, may the deuill himſelfe knowes, that my wife hath ſtucke vpon mee like a Plague thus many yeares, ſo apply either the ſtroop of a Salt Cele, or the oile of holly to her ſhoulders, I heather to was ſoftaude, becauſe I had no warrant that a man might lawfully beate his wife.

But

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But now sithe wee haue a sister doctor (who weares not a velvet righ t cap for nothing) hauing turned ouer his bookes, Andes that no hearbe, mineral, salve, nor plaster no purging nor any other blood-letting will cure or take out that woyme vnder a womans tongue, (which makes her mad) but onely a solid beating: I will (God willing) giue her the diet hee sets downe, & if euer I complaine here after to any Physician for the grief of this plague, let all waile laugh at me for an asse, & I swear that my wife weares the breeches.

Vpon this resolution brauely does the Cobler march home, his wife (like a farie) following, railing, reuyling and casting dirt and stones aswell at him as at the pouthes of the parish that went shouting after her heeles. But being within doores and the locks made fast by my vniuert Cobler, her tongue seru'd as a drum or trumpet to sound an alarm, whilst my braue desperdiew prepared for the onset with a good ballinado: the assault was not so furious, but the coblers wife was as ready to receiue it: to the skirnish fall they pell, mell, the Coblers Corcombe, being first broken, but he being no Welchman: to faint at sight of his owne blood (so plide his businesse, and soe thrash'd out all the Chasse in his wife (who was nothing but Rye) that in the end he fel one her knees, cried for the crummes of the Coblers mercy, & sed vpon them hugerly, he lining euer after more quiet ly for her scolding then if hee had dwelt in a Steeple full of bells that had lost their claps.

Thus much for the vniuersall plagues, that threaten our kingdome this present yeare 1609. Now let vs arme our heads to beate off the other miseries that are ready and must (by decree in the vpper house in the haauenly parliament) fall vpon mankind.

A prediction o Summer. 1609.

Summer the opinion of the yeare, and mistress of the earths daughter and heire to the spring, and emperesse ouer many kingdomes: whose robes are fields of standing Corne, and whose

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whose crowne is a garland of all sorts of fruits: Summer the releuer of the poore, and Landlady to the rich: the Ploughmans Goddesse, to whome he praiseth, the Husbandmans Queene to whome he worships: the filler vp of barnes, the feeder of Birds, the father of men and beastes, the treasurer of the world: the nurse of plenty, the enemye to death and famine: Summer, that is the Saint, to whome Voluptues and flatterers kneele; in whose praise Archers send forth shewts and Day-makers merry songs. This high-coloured red-lip'd, liuely-faced creature, comes not by turn to her coronation (to take her rule over the fourth part of the deuidd yeare, vppon the eleuenth day of Iune (according to common Astrononical computation, when the Sunne (the Coachman of the light) hath setht a carrit by as he as the utmost and loftiest place of his eare, namely to the first degree of the Equial Solstice (Cancer) which is his greatest declination to the North, from the Equinotiall. er: But the Buckles of the Girdle (with 12. Studs) which he weares, being this yeare 1609) turned behinde him, & the celestiall houses, at which he vses to lie (in his summer progresse) being now remooued and builded in other places, I finde that he shall enter at other gates, and that these shall be the harbingers, to make way before his coming: or the Vernalos to proclaim the time when he is come.

When therefore our aged grandam (the earth) shall (albeit in her latter dayes) be great with childe with Corne, flowers and fruits, & be ioyfully deliuered of them, yet other creatures (indued with reason) shall be barren of all goodnes: When the heat of the Sunne-beames, begets golde in the veins of the earth, yet gold when tis brought forth shall worke a coldnesse in mens hearts: when Riuers shall swell with Spring-tides, and the fountaines of Art and learning be drazon dry: when sheepe flie to broad trees to defend themselves from the wrath of heauen vnder their shades, and when innocencie is guarded vnder the wings of greatnes from the rage of oppression: when cuckows sing merrily, and cuckolds laugh at their own ioyes: when Courtiers ride by while the goose Chase,

D

while

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Indill farmers stand by and pralle their horsemanship: when haruesters come singing from the field, because the comne lies in sheafes: and when Citizens wives walke to their Gardens, yet bring from thence to their husbands no Rose gaires stuck with Vine. These and no other but these are the badges that Summer weares, and neuer comes in but when she puts on these iueries.

And albrit this Lady of the yeare, be (like her couzen the Spring) of a sweet and delicate complexion, and that her body is by nature so fruitfull, that still and anon she is in labour to bring forth, yet that curke which at the first was laid upon the earth, shall now this yeare 1609. fall upon her, insomuch that her lusty and strong limbes shall grow weake by want; and her extrailles be ready to wy and shrinke by to nothing by reason of a strange famine, that most assuredly will sed upon her.

Many deare peates are set downe in our abidgements of Cronicles, but the face of this shall loke moze leane then euer did any: I reade that in Edward the 2. time, there was such a famine, that Horse-flesh was eaten and held as good or better meate then some mutton now: and that fat dogs, were then catched by as fat pigs at Bartholme tide: yea, that in many places, they had the dead bodies of their owne children to deuoure them, and that thunes in prison made roast-meat one of another. In other Kings raignes likewise haue I noted other effects of hunger, as that Rapes haue bene sold at this price: Hogs, Chickens, Pigs, Geese, Cocks, with all other broodes of poultry-ware, at such & such excessive rates, which haue bene lamentable to endure, and tragicall now to remember. But in this yeare 1609. beasts shall not be sold deare. but men, yea men shall be bought and sold like Dren and Calues in Smithfield, and young Gentlemen shall be eaten by (for daintie meate) as if they were pickled Geese, or baked Woodcocks.

Neither shall the teeth of this famine teare out the guts of the poore farmer alone, nor shall the Country village cry out
upon

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Open this misery, but it shall euen slip into Lords, Earls, and Gentlemen's houses, Inasmuch y^e Courtiers shall this distempered seed upon citizens & citizens on the chary side lay about them like tall trenchermen to deuour the Courtiers, the Clergie in this greedy gutted time shall haue their checks for curry kots & shal lette or rather on force them and count it heauenly purchase to pull feathers from their backs.

If any complain this yette made for the scarcity of bread, let none be blamed for it but Callos, for by all the consent of the Planets, it is set downe that they will be mighty bread-cats, inasmuch that half a scope half-penny loave will make no shew vpon one of their flaks. But least we make you hangry that shall reade of this misery, by discouering thes of so terrible a famine, let vs make hast to get out of the heart of this dry and moystall Summer, and trye what wages the yeare will bestow vpon vs the next quarter.

Of Autumne or the fall of the leafe.

Autumne, the Barber of the yeare, that shanes bushes, edges and trees: the regget prodigall that consumes all and leaues himselfe nothing, the suns and begger amongst all the seere quarters, and the most-disraied, as beeing allwies troubled with the falling sicknesse, and (like a frenchman) not seeking a hair to stay on his head: his winterer of the spring this theef to summer, and bad companion of Winter, comes to come in according to his old custome, when the Sun sits like Iustice with a pair of scales in his hand, weighing no more hours to the day then he does to the night, as he did before in his Vernall progresse, when he rode on a Ram: but this bald-pate Autumne, will be sen walking vp & down greues, meadows, fields, woods, parks and pastures, blasing of fruites, and beating leaues from their trees, when common high-ways shall be strewd with boughes in mockery of Summer, and in triumph of her death, & when the doyes of bladders

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Shall bee crowed with greene hearbs, to doe honour to poore
brides that haue no dowryes (but their honestie) to their mar-
riage: when the world lookes like the olde Chaos, and that
plentie is turned into penurie, and beautie into vgliness:
when Periclyde (the second time) to Bathe, and carry another
Cornelius Tub with them, and when butchists lie amongst
hen sparrowes, yet bring home all the feathers they carried
out. Then say that Autumne raignes, then is the true fall
of the leafe, because the world and the yeare turne ouer a new
leafe.

You haue heard before of certaine plagues, and of a Fa-
mine that hangs ouer our heads in the cloudes: misfortunes
are not borne alone, but like married fooles they come in cou-
ples, A Ciuill warre must march at the heels of the former
misery, and in this quarter will he strike vpon his drum.

The dissention that happened once at ~~Presaga~~ ^{Presaga} betwene a
Scholler and a Glintner, about a quart of claret wine, was
but a oyle beating, nay rather a flea-biting to this, for vprore
and noise will fill all Countreies, insurrections or risings w^{ch}
will be within the citty, and much open villany will be w^{ch}
out the walls.

The hottest and heaviest warre the blackest and bitterest
day of battaile that is prognosticated to happen, shalbe be-
twene Lawyers and their clauants, and Westminster-hall is
the field where it shall be fought: without thundering, what
thundering, what rumbling, what marching, what braying &
out-braying, with drumming to parades, and what des-
tines will there be on both sides: dismall will be these conflicts
to some, deadly to others, and sayfull to a third sort: It is not
yet knowne by the celestiall arbiters, on whose side the victory
shall lye, but by all Astrological likelihoods, it is thought
that the Lawyers will carry it away (be it but with wrang-
ling) and they that goe armed with buckram bagges, and
pen and ink hornes will keepe off flasse and touch-horne, by the
tree-toppe, you shal see nothing but paper-bulles, and how
those that march with blacke bures at their girdles, and bulles

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in their hands, in sudden and terrible execution.

Another ciuill warre doe I finde will fall betwixt ene players who albeit at the beginning of this fatal yeare, they salute one another like sworne brothers, yet before the middle of it, shall they wish one anothers throat cut for two pence. The contention of the two houses, (the Gods be thanked) was appeased long agoe but a deadly war betwixt these thre houses will I feare burst out like thunder and lightning. For it is thought, that flag will be aduanced (as it were in most all defiance against flag) numbers of people will also be mustered and fall to one side or other, the drums and trumpets must be sounded, parts will then euen by the chiefest players be taken: words will passe to and fro, speeches cannot so be put by, hands will walke, an Alarum be giuen, fortune must fauour some, or else they are neuer able to stand: the whole world must stick to others, or els all the water in the theatres will not serue to carry those away that will be put to flight, and a third faction must fight like wilde bulls against Lions, or else it will be in vaine to march vp into the field.

Pea, and this ciuill mutinie in the Suburbs, and this stirring vpon the skirts of the Cittie, will I doubt kindle flames in the heart of it: for all Astronomers conclude, and all the booke of Constellations being turned ouer, speake thus: that vpon the very next day after Simon and Iude, the warlike drum and fife shall be heard in the very midst of Cheapside, at the noise whereof people (like madmen) shall throng together, and run vp and downe, striding by all meanes to get into Percers, Silke-mens, and Gold-smithes houses: to such height that this land-water swell, that the T-Conduits themselves are like to be set one against another, and not only the Lord: Shal: Sheriffes and officers, but also many of the Nobilitie of the land shall haue much ado with their troopes of horse, to breake through the disordered heapes of Tradesmen, and others that wil on that fearful day be assembled together. In vaine shall it be for any man to Cry peace, nothing will be heard but noise, and the siller that fire-works

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wee shewne amongst these pericious children, the louder will grow their rage, and more hard to be appeased. Other dissensions, mutinies, rebellions, battalles, combats, and combinations could I heere discover to you my countrymen, but doubting that I put your hearts out of their right places already with too much horrour and affrightment, heere doe I sound a Retreat, intreating all men (with mee) to shew supplications, and to exhibit them to the holie body of the celestial Councell, who sit in twelue houses of heauen, beseeching them that their iudgements may be more milde, that men may not bee so mad, and that women may turne from their euill doing.

I haue (if you remember) applied certaine salues to some of those plagues set downe before, which I thought curable, It shall not be amisse, if now likewise I beat out a plaine and leuell path, in which you may walke safely, as well to auoide the famine threatned, as to escape perishing in the ciuill war.

The comfort men haue in a time when victuals growe scarce, is either to be well furnished or els to haue the gift of abstinence, and to be content with little: Now because flesh is a great preseruer of mans life, I will shew you one stratagem how you may get much into your owne hands, how to vse it when you haue it, and how to refraine from taking of it; albeit your hunger be neuer so great: then wil I set downe other rare medicinable and pollicke receipts, or rather warlike engines, by which in time of such ciuill insurrections as are this yere like to happen. A man or woman may enforce themselves from the shot of all danger. For I would account that surgeon or that physician, a mad man or a foole, that coming to me when I am hurt or diseased and should onely tell me where my sicknes lies or how deep and dangerous my wounds are, but should not minister phisicke or balmes to recover me. As therefore I haue disclosed vnto you where and how and with what weapons you shall bee smitten, so doe I prepare medicinable compositions to recover you when you are stricke. And heere they followe,

An

The Rauens Almanack:

An excellent Stratagem, how in the time of Famine, to be well provided of flesh how to preserve it a long time from corruption, and how (when hunger is most sharpest) a man shall have no lust to fall to, but may grow abstinent.

In the Citie of Caliz (being an Island bordering & belonging to the kingdom of Spaine) ther was built a Colledge of Fryers, amongst whome there was one lusty Church-man above the rest, who was better lixured then learned, & could better skill in composing an amorous sonnet then in saying solemne virges. This Fryer notwithstanding bare such a holy shew, was so demure in his manners, and so covertly cloaked his holiness, that he was supposed the holiest fryer of all the fraternity, and therefore was appointed a confessor to a nunn, that was famous in this Island, for women of most severe forme of life & godly conversation. Under the jurisdiction of the Abbesse, there were some twenty Nuns, all young, lusty, and full of favour: very devout, and yet no such recluses, but they did eies as other secular women had, to iudge of beauty, and heere to wish wanton thoughts, which after grew to light (as time is the discoverer of most hidden secrets:) & it so fell out, amongst these holy the saints, that one was either more wise or more wanton then the rest, called Madona Barbadora; issued of good parentage, and only daughter, though not onely child to Signieur Pezgues Bontolus, a man of great reputation in the Citie of Caliz. This Barbadora comming oftentimes to be confessed of this fryer, whose name was Father Pedro Ragazoni, noted that he was a man of comely personage, & so began somewhat favourably to conceit of him: till at length frier Pedro marking her glances, perceiv'd she to be amorous, & with that hearing her sigh sundry times (ere he had conceit her) did straightly imagin that either she was a great sinner, & didly repent it, or else some over laden & maidens plague, (which is over large chastitie) and therefore so full of outward sorrow & contrition: the frier taking her one day by the hand as she was alone with him in a pew, wisht her to uncover her face Barbadora obeying her ghostly fathers command, the view of her vaille & blisht, which Fryer Pedro espying, kissing her cheek, began to salute her in this manner.

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saye Nun, and saye maide, as I am your confessor, and haue power to absolue, so if you conceale any sinne from me, it will craue the greater punishment. therfore briefly and faithfullly answere me to my question. There be many sinnes that trouble maids which may be eased, if they be prevented by some friend, or faithfull counsellor: as vnchast wilkes, wanton glances, amorous thoughts, and such veniall scapes, which are ingrafted by nature, and therfore craue pardon by course, and yet all deservng penance but seeing they are but sins of the minde, they are but motions. What say you Barbadora are you troubled with any of these trisling follies. The Nun holdinge downe her head only answered, He was a woman and her mothers daughter.

Fryer Pedro smelling a pad in the straw, prosecuted thus pleasantly. And is it sweet maiden (quod he) for those sins you fight oh no holy father (quoth she) for they be deeper passions that make me so sorrowful: Why (saies the Fryer) is it pride, covetousnesse, gluttony, enuy, wrath, sloath, or any such deadly sinnes that bringe you into those dumps? I would said Barbadora I were as free from all other as from these: then said the Fryer, my life for yours, it is some womans plague you are troubled with al, and if it be so, take heed, it is dangerous, the sinne is more easie then the sicknesse.

I pray you sir saith she, what terme you that plague? marry answers the fryer, that plague is, when a Maiden is saye young, of ripe yeares, and hath neuer a faithfull friend to helpe her, but must in so great distresse dye a Virgin: that, that my reuerend Confessor, quoth the Nun is my grieve: you haue censured right of my sorrow, I am troubled with that burning plague, and if your counsell comfort me not, I am like to fall into greater inconvenience: seeing therfore you are pious to my disease, as you are a Whollic father, and haue care of my soule to absolue my sins (for I hold you as a surgeon) therfore yours be the charge to prouide for the health of my body. The Fryer hearing the Nunne in so good a minde, whispers in her eare, but what I cannot tel, but I am sure he applied such

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such plaisters to helpe her, that she complained no moze of the plague a long time after.

Barbadora being thus set free from her often sighes, could not keepe her owne counsell, but she reuealed it vnto her bedfellow (for the closet of a womans thoughts hangs at her tongues end) in such sort discourst the conceit of her cure vnto her, that Iulia longed for the confesling day, (for so was the Juns bedfellow called) which being once come, and the in secret with Fryer Pedro, after he had questioned her of many times, and giuen much deuout and holy counsell, at last she burst forth into plaine termes, and tould him she was troubled with the same sicknesse her bedfellow Barbadora was, and therfore craued y^e like assistance at his hands. The Fryer smiling at this, was content to play the Surgeon to cure this plague, still vnder the colo^r of auricular confession, shadowing his villany, till of twenty Juns, sixteen were with childe.

At last, time began to babble, and the Juns bellies to grow big, so that befoze thre months were past, they began to feele y^e for the amending of their plague, they had a spice of Dunpany not long after, the world was quick, that the Juns grew big: and to be bziere, they feard their fellows should perceiue their fault, & so betwray it to the Abbesse, whereupon with a generall consent they all agreed at their next confession to betwray it to the Fryer, which was not long befoze it hapned. So Barbadora cunningly disembling the matter, being formost of the rest, because she was eldest and of greatest account with the Abbesse, came to confession. And whē Fryer Pedro began with many a smiling loke and holy kisse to greet her and question her about her sinnes, fetchng a great sigh, made him this answer: Deuout father, to make a rehearfall of my sinnes, is folly: to tell what particular offences haue scapt from me is needlesse, because in one bziere word, as he that sinnes in one of the ten commandments bzeakes all, so she that by a Fryer is gotten with Child, hath blemisht all her other vertues. And fir, therfore I confesse here that my belly is bigge, and your swarte sugery hath wrought it: so eyther you must

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bestire your wits to helpe now at a pinch, or else your discredit will be as great as my dishonour. The Fryer although this motion had greatly amazed him, yet he would not shew it in countenance, lest he might discourage his faire Lemman, but bad her be of good chere, and not to feare, for he would be charie of her honoꝝ and credite, and salve what was amisse to both their contents. I sir (qd. she) were my selfe onely in this perplexitie I would not doubt of your present deuise, but there is fourtene moze besides my selfe, all troubled with the like swelling: What sister (qd. the Fryer) and with that hee fetcht a great sigh, and said, I haue made the olde saying true, who sowes shall reape: I quoth Barbadora, if it be but a whip and a white sherte, and therefore god Fryer, take hiede that your penance be not woꝛse then our punishment, for your ghostly surgerie hath brought vs to this diuellish sicknesse. Feare nothing Darling (quoth he, and smild) Fryers haue wit, as women haue willes, and therefore doubt not of any conceit, but tell me what is your greatest care? Mary (quoth she) that the five that are free, perceiue vs not, and so discouer our faults to the Abbesse. Leauē that to me (quoth he) I will take oꝛder for that, to your high content, and so with great comfort to his holy sister he sent her away with a kinde confession, and toke himselfe to the rest who all sung the same song that Barbadora did, which put the poore Fryer to his shifts, but when hee had confest them all, subtilly he went to the Abbesse & saluted her, and she returning him as kindly greetings, questioned how her twelue Nuns profited in vertue Truly Adam (sayd Pedro) well, but amongst twelue Disciples there was one Iudas: and when Adam had but two sonnes, one pꝛoued a murderer: in Noahs Arke there was one Cham, and where God hath a Church, the diuell hath a Chappell.

The Abbesse hearing the holy ffather beginning such an enigmaticall exordium, began to suspect that there was some mischance amongst her Nuns, and therefore called him into the Doyser, and desired him to betray vnto her what was amongst the Sisters: the for (that had fed vpon so much mutton cunningly

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cunningly began to insinuate himselfe vnder the shape of Abacuk, thus Adam you know that it becomes a Confessor to be as secret as seuer, and to conceale offences, as well as he appoints correction for sinnes, therefore I may not no: dare not for mine oath reueale what either I know or they haue confest, but this in priuate I giue you as a Caueat, if they stay long in your Cloister, they will discredit your house, and bring it in great approbation question: with that he named the five honest Nuns, and with a solemne protestation, admonisht the Abbess as speedily as might be to conuey them out of the Nunnery with credit. She thanking the holy Father for his care he had of her honour, gaue him gold for his paines, & bid him farewell, still imagining what this matter might be: and examine them she durst not, lest they should suspect their Confessor had discovered their confession, and so vpon their complaint bring the Fryer to further trouble, yet willing to haue them remoued (so to saue her house from blemish) she sent for their friends, and dealt so couertly and cunningly with them, that they were taken home for a time, till further tryall of their fortunes might be had. Their friends and parents sorrowfull and grieuing, that they alone the rest should miscarry, yet conceald all, and shadowed their home coming by sundry excuses, and yet not so cunningly but the common people began to imagin diuersly of their departure, but none durst censure openly though they muttered in secret, so that after many daies all was whisht, and the other Nuns were glad, for all were feathered of one wing, and did so closely comfort themselues, that the Abbess suspected nothing, and Fryer Pedro had more free access to Clergie his holy Virgins and confessants, and made an agreement, that which of them was brought to bed first, should giue him their Child, and he would conuay it away to their content and his owne credit.

Living thus as pleasantly as a Cocke amongst so many Hennes, it fell so out at the last, that Barbadores good houre was come, and that at such an unhappy time, that

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neither the deuise of H fryer, nor the secrecy of the Nunns, nor her own pollicie could saue her honesty, for rising as their custome is at twelue a clock at night to sing certaine Hymnes, Barbadora in the midst of the quire fell in trauell, and though she sought by all meanes to conceale, and to bide many sore pangs, yet at last she was faine with a loud alarm to cry hier then they sung, which the Abbesse hearing, staid their Mattins and went to Barbadora, asking her what she ailbe and what extreame disease paind her so. that she made such heauy shrieking: the great bellied Nun, half dead with paine, would giue the Abbesse no answere but oh my belly, my belly, F rier Pedro, Pedro, oh my belly: the old matron perhaps in her youth had ben cured of the maides plague) perceiued straight where her shoue wuzung her, and therefore charged the Nunns to hold her back, and she plaid so cunningly the H olowines part, that Barbadora was deliuered of a pretie Boy, which the Abbesse seeing, after she knew that all danger was past she raged and railed against the poore Nun, laying open not onely the grauenesse of the sin, but also her owne discredit, and cheifly H blemish that should redound to her, to the house, & all her fellow Nunns, through her only lightnes of her life: after she had almost chafft her selfe out of breath, she questioned who was the father, and Barbadora in great contrition of minde, told her how her holy father F rier Pedro did it. The Abbesse swearing a most tall reuenge against the F rier for the loue she bare to Barbadoras father Signior Ideagues Bartolos. & for the care she had, least if this fact were knowne, her Nunnrie should grow in open contempt, she began to salue the matter amongst the Nunns: I can not deny sisters quoth she, but as your vow is holy, so the breach of virginity in this case deserues no lesse then hell fire & without repentance can haue no absolute pardon, for the scape of a Nun is more then of another ordinarie M onach, and so: that course onely vpon suspicion, I remoned five of your fellows which I thought faultie, yet flesh is fraile, & women are weake vessels, especially tempted by such a subtil Serpent as F rier Pedro is, and therefore the fault is
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the lesse, & the more willingly to be shadowed, so that I charge you here to conceale the matter both for your owne & mine honour: and if any of you all haue been by him perswaded to the like folly, tell it to me now in secret, and I will be as silent as your selues to salue and saue your honesties. The Nunns hearing this, all fourtene fell down on their knees before the Abbesse and cried out vpon frier Pedro (lecherous frier Pedro) and curst him: the Abbesse suspecting nothing of the whole 14, had them beware not only of him (for he should no more come within their Doors) but of all others that hereafter should be their Confessors. Alas Adam (qd Juliana) it is to late, for we all 14. are with childe by him: marry God forbid (qd the Abbesse) and blest her, what (qd she) is at a clap with childe, and only by one frier! When I see well the diuell is grown deuout, when friers deale their almes so frankly: but by sweet S. Anne (said she) I will be reuenged on the frier, and all the Couert shall pay sweetly for ingrossing the market, and buying so much flesh for his owne dyet.

So she fel to more strickt examination of them, whether any more friers came with him or no: and they confest that he had procured euery one of them a loue, & deliuered their names, which she taking note of, deferred not reuenge very long, lest suspicion might be had, but thus cunningly sought to acquite the wrongs profered both to her & her house: she sent her stewards abroad to buy great provision of victuals, & then her owne selfe went to y^e Abbot, and desired that her Confessor and 14. of his friends might take part of a feast which she had provided: the Abbot granted, & the friers gaue her great thanks, & promised to come, all laughing in their sleeves that she should giue the faire Nunns and them leaue to haue one merry supper together, seeing in secret they had so many nights lodging wth them. The Abbesse went home smiling, and provided certain tall sturdy knaues for y^e purpose, that were tenants, and belonging to the lands of the Nunry, & conuaided them all nere vnto the backe place of the Chappell, and had giuen them her minde out plainly, to deale with the friers as she had decreed:

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and thereupon placed in that backe roome fiftene great blocks all standing one by another as orderly as might be.

Hauing thus fitted all things to the purpose, she put by the Puns euery one into their Cels, lest they should giue any inckling vnto the Fryers of her determination. At the houre appointed, these strolicke Fryers came clad in their conles with smoth faces, and dissembling hearts, hauing great shew of prayers in their eies, and hope of lecherie in their thoughts: but howsoeuer, the old Abbesse gaue them a most courteous and friendly welcome, telling them that the Puns were all this day busie cookes about the feast, onely her selfe was left to giue entertainment: they gratulated her curtesies, & she led them all into a great Parlor, where she caused the Steward to bring them in Wine: then the place being strong, she went forth and called the Confessor to her, and then leading him into the backe roome appointed for the purpose, the tall knaues laid hold on him, and there stripping him into his shirt they toke a great thre forked uisile, and fastened the Fryers Dooets of dimissories fast to the block, to the great pains & amasing of the Fryer. Well, howsoeuer hee complained, hee could not get any answer of the Abbesse, but that shee laugh't heartily: and thus by one and one she drew out the Fryers, and nayled them fast in their shirts to the blocks; then laying dolone by euery one of them a sharpe knife she began to make her Dration thus. Gentle Father Pedro, and you the rest of the holy Fryers, you know the smallest sin craves some penance in the Lay people, then what doe great offences in Fryers: hee which knowes his Masters will and doth it not, must be beaten with many stripes: so you that know lecherie was a deadly sin, and had all by solemne oathes vowed chastitie, haue gotten all the Puns of my house with child. Wherefore I in charitie haue for your soules health appointed you this penance. At that word all the countrey fellows set fire in the thatch, and the house began to burne: you see (quoth she) either burne to death, or els here by kniues to free your selues, now it is at your owne choice whether you will burne or gild your

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your selues, and hereafter endeouour to keepe chastitie.

The Fryers hearing this hard resolution, began wit^h humble lookes to intreat her, but in vaine she made them all a lowe curtesie and went her waies.

The Fryers in great perplexitie seeing the house all on fire, and that they began to frise in their shirts, and the house ready to fall about their eares; Fryer Pedro learning first to play the man, toke the knife and whipt off his genitozies, and away he runs towards the Abbey, and euery frier fearing the fire, plaid the like part, and away they run bleeding, as fast as their legs would carrie them: the fire grew great, and it was perceined a farre off, so that Signior Ideagues Bartolos (Barbadoras father) espied it, fearing his daughters mishap, ran thither himselfe. The Abbot being told the Nunry was on fire, made no little hast for feare of his Fryers, & an infinite of other people being deuoutly minded to the Nunry ran thither, and as they went, Signior Bartolos & the Abbot, met the Fryers running away in their shirts, which amasing them, the Abbot said what nelues frise Pedro? what, the Nunry a fire, and you run away in your shirts, what meaneth this? I know not, I know not sir (said he) wee were there late enough, the diuell burne house, Abbess, Nuns and all, and away trudged the Conent, euery man to his lodging, and sending speedily for a skilfull surgeon, the Abbot with the rest of the towne-men, and Signior Bartolos came thither, and by that time the roose was pulled downe, and all quencht, and they found the Abbess ready to entertaine them friendly. They wondzing at this, demended how the fire came, and what the reason was the Fryers ran away in their shirts? The Abbess recounted vnto them from point to point. what had hapned, and how fiftene of the Nuns were with childe vnder the shadow of confession. by those Fryers, & therefore she had sought reuenge to cleare her selfe of that crime: because your eies shall witnes what bitter punishment I haue appointed them for pennance, come all with me & so he led them into the back come, where she shewed the knives, & what the Fryers for feare had left behind them. At this they all fell into a great laughte, except Bartolos (who grieved for his Daughter Barbadora) yet he highly

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commended the Abbesse for her reuenge, & she was honoured through the citie: the Puns banisht their religious house, the Friars put out of these Doctozs: and the fine poore Puns that were thrust out (without cause) entertained againe: and euer after, the Puntie was in great fame and credit. Now to a second remedy, how to stop the mouth of a Usurer, when his couetousnes complaines of famine and cannot be satisfied.

An excellent dyet for an Usurer, when his conscience is starued.

In Rauenspurge, in Germany, there dwelled a Jew that was a vsurer, who liued by y^e spoil of his purloining facultie and reapt with ease what others had purchast with laboz: rich he was, and well monied, & ready to lend vpon any reasonable assurance: but as he was sweet to pleasure at the first, so at the last, whosoever tasted of his fauours, found them bees wth stings, and faire panthers with deuouring panches, that al his curtesies were but sowlers gins to bying a bird to the snare, and then to prey vpon them like Crocodiles aliue: so this miserable Jew was plyant to the suite of any man, that brought him either sufficient suerty or pawns: but if he broke one minut of his appointed houre, he toke the forfeits wth all extremitie. Gathering thus infinit treasures into his hands, he grew by this ertozing qualitie to be one of the richest men in Rauenspurge: yet though his wealth was great, & he in debt to none, his belly sued an action of trespassse (damage due hundred pounds) against him, as being indebted to it, in so much for hū gry meales, and hard chere that he had past ouer in his lifetime, so he was not only spare in his diet, but miserable, grāting himsele oftentimes no other then water to quench his thirst, and feeding vpon nothing but the most refuse meate in the shambles to satisfie his hunger. This Jew called Iochim Gorion, thus flourished and toke his onely felicitie in feeding his eyes with the sight of infinite treasure, not respecting the ruine of many poore men, so he by their miseries might much
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himselfe. Wherupon he grew in open contempt, and hatred of all the people, but as the more he is curst, the better he fareth, so Ioachim the more the people exclaimed against him, the more his profits and pleasures came in.

At last it fortuned that a Farmer bordering nere vnto Ravenspurge, being called Hans Van Limericke, hauing a sum of money to pay, or else to lose certaine commodities five times worth the value, not knowing how to furnish himselfe with so much coyne, and finding friends slacke in time of necessity, at length called to minde this wretched Usurer Gorian, and though he knew him to be a man of no conscience, yet assuring himselfe how he was able to pay his money that he borrowed againe at the day, was the better encouraged to deale with him, so that conetng rather to brooke an inconuenience, then suffer a mischiefe, hee went to the house of Ioachim, & brooke the matter vnto him: the Jew neuer denied but friendly promised him to lend him so much so he might haue sufficient assurance for his money. Hans hearing this, was glad, and said he ment to lay him his sacine and all his Lands in morgage, w^{ch} a letter of defeisance recognised, that all the land should be his, if either he broke the day or houre. The couetous Jewe was content, so that taking a booke of giuft with a promise of him, he tendered downe the money, and so fitted and supplied the Farmers present want, who went home merily, & dispatched such Creditors as he was vpon that day to discharge. The Jewe knowing the farms to be a pretty plot, well situated and three times worth the money, w^{ch} Limerick dead, that he might freely enter possession of his goods and lands, but it fell out contrary to his desire and expectation, for the Farmer carefull of his day, because he knew the hard conscience of the Usurer, straine himselfe and his friends and provided the money, and at the time appointed came and brought it to Gorian's house: now the money was to be paid betwene two and three in the after noone, which Hans knowing, was there halfe an houre after two to deliuer his money: The Usurer hearing that he was come, was greatly grieved that he had kept touch

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so well, and therefore thought to over-reach him with flat politicke coulinage, which he performed thus.

The Usurer had a clocke in his house, which went with such vices and ginnalls, that by letting downe a pullie, he could make it strike what a cloke himselfe would: so that sending downe word to him that he would come by and by, hee went himselfe and straine the pully, and the clocke presently strake thre: whereupon the Jewe came downe, and demanded of Limericke what he would haue? Harrie Sir (quoth he) I haue brought you home the money I borrowed of you, with my appoynted loane, and a thousand thanks, besides: promising for this fauour euer to rest yours whilst I liue. My money Hans? (qd. he) why dost not know the effects of my recognisance? I pray thee at what houres was the money to be paid: betwene two and thre (quoth Limericke) why so then it is now past thre, and therefore I le none of the money, but stand to the forfeite of the bands that are lost to me by mortgage: at this the poore farmer was some thing amazed, yet thinking the Jew had but iested, he smild, and began to turne the money on the board, to tender it: but Ioachim tolde him flat that he was in earnest, and would none of the money: why Sir (quoth Hans) though your clocke hath stricken thre by other clockes it is little past two, and therefore I hope you will not so vniustly stand vpon the aduantage: the Usurer answered him that his clocke went right and he would take none: vpon which they fell at great debate, till at last other clockes in the towne strake thre also, which when the Jew heard, hee was glad, and bad him if he could count what it was a clocke, to be brieft, he would not receiue a penny, but stode to the extremity of the mortgage.

The poore Farmer grievously perplered, intreated him with teares, obiecting that if it were so, a minutes breach was not much: but in vaine all his perswasions were bootlesse breathed into the ayre, for the Jew that had his hart as flinty as Adamant, felt no remorse, but went into his closet, and left poore Limericke with his complaints, who sorrowfully going home

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home to his wife, bewaile the matter vnto her, who parting her husbands grieffe with equall discontent, perswaded him to patience, and told him hee had no better remedy then to make his complaint to the Signorie and rulers of the Cittie, which he did, and cald the Iew at a Law day befoze the iudge, and there reucaled his case at large, for might ouer-comming right, and money peruerting the truth, he went home with a flea in his eare, vtterly vndone and beggered, and the Usurer merily tryumphing in the verditte of his reuenues.

This past on a yere or two, till at last poore Hans grew to tht extreme want, that hee had neither money, credit, nor hou'e to put his head in, which so vexed him, that at length he grew weary of his life: for being salne from a man of some account to great contempt by his pouertie, hee wared into a kinde of despairing lunacie, and had oftentimes in his melancholly humors laine himselfe, had not his wife prevented him by her carefull diligence.

While thus Limeri ke liued in beggers estate with his wife and three small children, this Iew (this Ioachim) this wretched Usurer, as he tryumphed in his wealth, was one day suddenly stricken with sicknesse that he went to his bed, and there lay till he grew queasie at the heart, and then hee sent for phisicians whom he greased with golde, and bad them spare for no cost, so he might recouer his former health: they applyed Potions, Elixuaries, Clusters, Purgations, and Pilles, but in vaine. *Contra vim mortis, non est medicamen in hortis.*

They could finde out no Simple, Hearbe, Stone nor Pinell, Drugges nor compound so comfortable, that any way might mittigate his disease, so that growing past helpe of man, the Phisicians left him, and certaine deuout men of the towne came to perswade him to God, seeing hee was no man of this world, wishing him to enter with deepe insight into his owne minde, and to search his conscience for many wrongs and excozting iniuries hee had offered to poore men, setting befoze his eyes the paynes of Hell due to sinners, as condigne punishment. Ioachim hearing all, a long time

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time with patience answered not a word, but onely desired the to depart, & to trouble him no more for a while: which they did, and he turning himse'fe, lay two or three houres in a trance considering and repeating in his minde, the infinite wrongs and palpable iniuries he had offered the poore, the widdow and fatherlesse, which striking a remorse into his conscience, seeing he must die, and measuring his finnes with the iustice of God, and having no grace to thinke vpon his mercie, hee started vp, and with his eyes staring, cryed vnto his man and sayd, oh the plague, the plague, the plague is here my Ben, the plague: his man thinking he had traude for want of sleep, desired him to be patient, and to leaue off those franticke exclamations. Oh thou of my tribe (quod he) I am in my right minde, the plague is here euen in my conscience, in my inward soule, I am worse then Cain or Iudas: I haue murdered more then they two by extortion, & therefore I cannot be saued: the plague is in my conscience. my Ben, the plague: his man (although hee hated his maister) & wisht him at the Diuel, yet to blind the world with the opinion of a dutifull seruant, he presently ran for the chiefe Burgamasters of the towne, who coming hastily to comfort and counsell him, found him in this despairing humour, and could by no means draw him to any hope of grace: where vpon they left him as he liued, & so gaue him ouer to die, he continuing still in this melancholly despair. While thus he languished in this mad mode, Hans and his family harbored in poore estate in the Citty, and hearing of this extreme sicknesse of the Jew, was glad that God had so sharply auenged him of his enemy: but yet this mishap bred him small helpe, where vpon desirous to die, he went, and at an Apothecaries shop bought him a most tall confession, w^{ch} he purposed to take to rid him from his present miserie.

Having kept it a long while in a Tioll, at last he sat in a great studie vpon his present hard fortunes, and howering betwixt grace & despair, at last he resolved to go try now what this Asprer would dos. happily (said he to himse'fe) his sicknes hath altered his conscience, and his minde is better now toucht with

The Ravens Almanake.

with the doubt of death, then when before hee had no other thoughts but vpon life, so that I will make experience if hee will compassionate my miserie, and make some restitution of that which so wrongfully hee detaineth from me. In this minde the poore man went to Gorions house, and knocking at the doore, he found none there but poore Benjamin, who was almost wearie of his life, with the extreame travell that hee had with his lumticke Jewish Master, and he poore soule began to turne Christian, and to pittie the Farmer, and wisht him to come in.

It may be (saith he) grace yet will be sent to him, and the touch of his exhortion will turne his conscience, therefore come vnto him, and speake face to face with him: The Farmer glad of this, came into the chamber and saluted him in most humble manner. Who is that (oh Ben) saies the Jew, that salutes me? It is sir (quoth he) the poore farmer whose lands you entered vpon by a forfeit of mortgage. At that as well as he could, he raised himselfe vp in his bed, and cryed out, Villaine take heed, he comes to rob me, beware of him. looke to my Coffers, to my gold, to my writings: where are my keyes? Sir (saith Beniamen) they be about your necke: so, in his most extremitie, no, not till his latest gaspe would hee part from them, so that in a couetous lunacie he gropt so, them, held them fast, and cryed out the Plague, the Plague, oh Well, Well, the Deuill, the deuill.

So his man Ben perswaded him to be quiet, and to remember the poore man: the poore man, I marry Ben, well said (quoth the Jew) where is he? I will giue him his land againe I toke from him wrongfully, and then he stood staring him in the face: hee will not lue long saith his man. Stay you with him and talke with him, till I goe out and call some neighbours to be with me.

The Farmer was content, & so Beniamen went out and left them two together: as soone as he was gone, the poore man began to instruct him to Godward, and seeing he was ready to die, to make restitution of such goods or Lands as hee

The Rauens Almanacke.

with-held from any man by extortion.

At this the Jewe lookt on him very ghastly, and spyed the Tiall that þe poore man helde in his hand vnder his cloake: with that, in a rage hee cryed out, what hast thou there in the glasse? phisicke to cole my conscience that burnes like Hell hath the diucl sent to heale me.

The Farmer seeing this desperate Jewe boyde of all grace and giuen ouer by God into a reprobatesence, answered him briefly, he hath sent me to thee, & vild Asurer, I haue brought thee Phisicke from the Deuill to helpe thee. Oh welcome, welcome sayes the Jewe, what is in it? what is in it? Mary saith the Farmer, there is in it these simples following.

Heere are the teares of poore men distilled from their eyes thzough the anguish of thy extortion, and they are made luke-warme with the scalding sighes that thzobs from their sorrowfull hearts, tempered with the curses of Widowes and Orphanes, whom thou hast brought to beggery: these boyld with the fire of Gods wrath, and put vp by the Deuill into a violl of despaire, & prepared for thee to drinke, that after thou hast takē this potion, thou mayest goe to the deuill without repentance.

Then giue it me (quoth he) and so he snatcht the viall of poison out of the poore mans hand, and drunke it off: the confession being strong began to suffocate his senses, that he lay still: perceiuing that he could not liue long, thought now, seeing no body was there, to prouide for himselfe: conuey any chests he could not: steale any goods he might not, for he had no opportunitie, and therefore God putting it into his minde, hee tooke penne and paper, and writ a scedule to this effect.

The Scedule which the Farmer writ.

Ioachim Gorion being whole of minde, though sicke in body, toucht with remorse of conscience for the manifest wrongs that I haue proffered to infinit poore men, Widowes, and Fatherlesse children, hoping that the mercie of God is more
then

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then my firs, do ordaine Hans van Limericke my lastofall heire and Executor, as a man whome aboue all I haue most wonged, conditionally that he reward my man Benjamin, for his faithfull seruice: and for the surplusage, let it be to him and to his heires for ever, of all my goods, lands, Cattles and mouables: and that this is my last will and testament, I haue thereto set my seale at armes.

Hans Limericke hauing thus cunningly witten it, and being a good penman, so excellently well counterfeited his hand that it might not easily be discerned but the Jew himselfe had witten it: so pulling his seale off from his finger, he sealed it, and then wapping it vp, put it in a purse that hung about the Jewes necke, for Ioachim was already sencelesse, and lay strating, but the poison had so suffocated his pipes, that he could not speake.

By that came Benjamin with two or three poore men and Women to watch with him, whereupon the farmer toke his leaue: and his man asked him what newes: I can get no other answer of him than this, that when he is dead I shall heare what he will doe. At that the Jew lokt Ben in the face, and as well as he could, pointed to Hans, meaning how he had poisoned him, but they toke it that he meant some good should be done vnto Hans.

After his death, as soone as he was gone, the poison came to the last erigent, and the pangs of death dyne on, and they all perceiued that there was no hope of life, which sorted according to their expectations, for within one halfe houre after, the Jew died.

As soone as Benjamin saw him dead he shed teares, more for fashion then for loue: and hauing like a wise Cooke lict his owne fingers, that he neede no further legacy to shadowe the matter, sent one straight to signifie the matter vnto the Burgamasters, that Ioachim the Jew was dead, and seeing that he had neither made will, nor yet had any kindred that might claime it as his heire, it were best for them to looke for the disposing of his goods.

The

The Ravens Almanake.

The Burginasters coming thither, with a generall consent, began to suruey euery chest in the house, and to search eary corner putting all into an inuentorie that they found, laboring summed together, redounded to an infinit wealth, besides his lands, leases, and tenements, that he had in the Citie and country thereabout. At last missing the keyes of certaine chests that could not be vnlatched, Benjamin told the they hung about his neck at his purse: they wondzing at the exceeding couetousnesse of such a miserable man, smiled & tooke his purse, and searching what was in it, found the scrowle which Limericke had written, sealed with the Priores seale at mines: which when they had well read ouer and determined vpon, they all censured that God had put some reioyce into his conscience, both to make him heire whom he had so highly wronged, and that he was in so good a mind to make restitution of his misdeeds. vpon this they called a Conuocation in their sotate-house, they sent after Hans, and by a generall decree, made him a lawfull inheritor to the Jew: so Hans from a begger became richer then any Burginaster, did many good deeds to the poore, made restitution and well rewarded Benjamin, thanking God that the miserable vscarer had couetously gathered and had him to be his heire, whom he neuer so much as once dreant of.

How in a household of ciuill warre, a woman may be safe
from a cruell husband,

In the Country of Deronshire, not farre from Excester there dwelled a Kope-maker whose name I conceale: this Kope-maker (whom I will call Richard) was about the age of some forty yeres, and he was a pious soure fellow, ill loued of his neighbours, because he so unkindly liked of his wines: for this iolly companion had bin married to three wines in ten yeres, and had vsed them all so hardly, that he killed them all with kindnes.

This brought him in such hatred amongst all his neighbours,

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that though he were a man of very good wealth, and besides his occupation, landed: yet the poorest & basest wench in the whole countrey, did disdain to match herself with such a fantastick husband, so that being a widower, hee had no hope euer to match himselfe again, where he was knowne, and therefore apparelling himselfe handsomely, and putting stoos of crownes in his purse, he went into Sommerfetshire hard by Tanton, and there was a suto; to a widdowes daughter that was a good proper maide and wellfaoured, but of no great wealth, & therefore the easier to be wooed, & won of a stranger.

This rope-maker being a good proper man, and of a comely personage, became a suto; to this maide, whose name was Mary, a wench of a good bone and a lusty complexion, much like to Lancashire breed, the maiden entring into consideration of her mothers estate, and her owne pouertie, and seeing she had few suiters, because the hope of her dowrie was but small, listned the rather to Richards motion, who being of a sinooth tongue, and could set out himselfe well in talke, as the Siger when he meanes to prey, then euer hideth his clawes, and where the ffood runnes smoothest, there is it deepest: so as the olde proverbe is, the still sothe eates vp all the drasse: and he could vse such ciuill behauiour, trickt out with such eloquence and glorious tearmes, that in short time hee wonne the wench and married her, and after hee had remained a weeke or two at home with her Mother, he tooke his leaue to carrie her home to his owne house: although there was some sorrow at parting betweene the Mother and Daughter, yet because she loued Richard well, shee tooke it patiently, and being hony moone, he seemed so chary ouer her, that it grieved him the winde should blowe on her: well, home they went, and when she came where he dwelt, she found a house well stored with all things necessary, but she wondered as the custome was in their countrey, that none of his neighbors did come to welcome him to the towne: well, this past on till Sunday, and then she went to Church: when they of the towne did see

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that

The Rauens Almanacke.

that rich man the rope-maker had gotten so proper a woman to his wife, they began to say, that the more kinne had euer the better lucke, and in deed fortune was blinde when she suffered such a buzzard to light on such a chicken, and to pittie the poore womans mischappe, that had chaunced on such a froward and Ware braine Husband: yet lothing all by with a good countenance, they, after seruice was done, welcommed her vnto the parwish, and she returned t hem thanks very euill. It chanced one wife an engli therell, whose sister this Hope-maker had married and liued with kindnes, did long till shespa ke with Richards wife, that shee might make her priup vnto her husbands vntoward qualities: & tarrying a great while to speake with her, at last finding oportunitie, discoursed vnto her how her husband had bin married vnto three wiues, and how cruelly he had dealt with them all, abusing them so that they tooke such grief, that for verie sorow they all dyed, telling her from point to point a number of his ill conditions, which although they wente colde to her heart, yet chearefully made the Woman answere, that what her husband had done before, it little toucht her: the woman hearing Richards wife speake so modestly, and in the defence of her husband, only prayed God she might finde it so in the end, and so friendly they parted.

The Hope-makers wife being in a great perplexitie, that she had made such a choise in haste, that she might so deeply repent at leysure, hoping the best, shee went about her businesse till her husband came home, who returning within two daies after she welcommed him with all curtisie that a woman could afford to her husband: he thanked her, but not with the same familiar countenance he was wont to doe, which streight made her suspect that her neighbors tale would proue a true prophesie, but patiently brooking some vnkinde frownes, shee dealt so carefully, lovingly, and kindly with him, that he could finde no cause to beate her, in so much that his olde dogged nature within one halfe yeare began to breake out, so that she easily perceiued

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perceined he sought a knot in a rosh, and aymed earnestly to finde some Cauell that hee might hamfell her bones with a cudgell: if thee lookt merily on him, thee floures him, and freight he lent her a bore on the eare for flouting.

If her countenance were solemnly modest, then she loathed him, and what he did, and round about the house he went with a fayre Holly wand: if thee spake vnto him she was talkatiue; and freight she had a blowe on the lippes: if thee saide nothing she was sulien: and he would make her finde her tongue with a Kops-ende, which he called a Salt-Cele, and with which against her will thee broake her fast, binde, & supt many a time: whatsoeuer she did huswifely in her house, what meat she dreft, what businesse she perfozmed, al was misconstrued and rewarded with blowes, which dzaue her poore womā into such a quantarie, that she wisht her selfe out of the world, her estate groweing worse & worse: at last his habit grew to a custome & so she neuer went unbeaten to bed, so that as now gentle women weare their masks, so thee euerie Sunday went to Church with a blacke face, which her neighbors espying, as they pittied her, so they smiled, to it at length she had found their forewarnings to bee no other but meere prophesies, but although they had libertie to iest, so she had occasion to sorrowe, for the miserable man would dzaue her into great extremities, and make tryall of her patient nature, with wondrous contrarieties: so some time comming home late in the night, hee would bring sun-dre of his neighbors with him, and so thewe how hee could domineere ouer his wife, hee would make her light a pound of Candles at the great ende, which if either in iest or earnest thee refuse to doe, freight about the house thee went, and a had gentle remembrance to remember his fingers a month after.

And amongst the rest, one day to haue the world thinke in what secutic flauerie his wife stood of him, hee caused her to stand by him, while hee made Kopes, and fill a Sine with water, a labour as endlesse, as painefull and contemptible,

The Rauen's Almanacke.

so that the neighbors and passengers noting it, some praised the womans patience that excused her husbands sooth charge; with so steadfast and resolute a countenance: the poore wife living in this miserie by the space of some thre or foure yeares: so one day being alone by her selfe, looking in a glasse, and considering advisedly how her wonted countenance was blemisht by her husbands vnderlines, shee set on a great sigh, and swore a mortall and satallcuenye, so that a deepe hate of his ill qualities entring in to her thoughts, shee resolvd to make him repent those manie yeares he had made her leade in such seuerle miserie.

In this determination she gathered her wits together, and sought how to crie quittance with her husband, yet could shee finde no certaine meanes speedily to auoide the hys with disposition of such an earthly Denil, but bearing the Crosse with patience, rested the verie subiect of distresse: to run away shee would not, to withstand him shee could not, shee shamed to make complaint to the Iustices: and thus euerie way shee was voide of any remedie, so that shee brookt all, and went about her busines, till on a time fortune smiling vpon her, and intending to giue truce to this poore woman, it chanced that as shee was gathering rushes to make her house cleanly, against the next Holy-day, sitting & sighing at her unhappines, she heard one sing a merrie song which shee gaue eare vnto. The effect wherof, agreed greatly with her melancholly disposition, for it armed a saluie for that soze, that pincht her, and applide a medicine for her continuall maldie: the contentes of the song were these.

A song sung by an olde Woman in
a Medowe.

OF all the plagues which make poore wights,
vnhappy and accurst:
I thinke a wicked husband is,
(next to the Deuill) the worst,

But

The Rauens Almanacke.

But Will young women come to mee
He shew them how they shall,
With prettie sleights and priuie tricks
straight rid them from such thrall

The husband frownes, & then his sight
lights on her tender cheekes:
And if she doe reply a word,
a Saffe is not to seeke.
But will, &c

Aiealious eye the husband beares,
then is he out of quiet,
And she must fit her humors then
to feed his braine-sicke dyet,
But will, &c,

Else round about the house she goes,
the holy Wand must walke:
And though his words bee reasonles,
yet must she brooke his talke,
But will, &c.

Thus men doe triumph like to kings
and poore Wiues must obey:
and though he be a verry foole,
Yet must he beare the sway.
But will young women come to me,
He shewe them how they shal
With prettie sleights and priuie tricks
straight rid them from such thrall.

The old woman hauing thus ended her song, the poore
wife that with teares for ioy, heard some hope of her re-
dresse, drew neere to stand on at this olde woman, who had sung
such a pleasant Dittie, and finding her sozth, shee saluted her
curte

The Rauens Almanacke.

carleously, and after sundry broken sighes, flowen out of a penſiue conſcience, ſhe began to breake with her in this manner.

Moother (quoth ſhe) as your age is great, ſo your experience is much, and therefore would I willingly diſcouer ſome parte of my grieefe vnto you: the old woman ſeeing the wiues face full of ſorrow, noting in her the very Anatomie of a penſiue woman, began to compaſſionate her fortunes, and therefore with her mildly and friendly, to reueale the cauſe of her diſtreſſe, & if any way it lay in her power, to ſatiſſie her thoughts, her cares ſhould be cured with either counſaile or comfort: the poore wife hearing the old woman ſpeake with ſuch a familiar reſpect vnto her, began her complaint thus:

The wiues complaint, of the conditions of
an ill husband.

Moother I cannot conceit my griefes without ſighes, nor
maniſeſt my ſorrowes without teares, ſo bitter is the
ſtate of my fortunes and ſo hapleſſe is the euent of my redreſſe:
I was once as you haue bene, a maide, and then the countrey
Farriers reported my beantie to be as great, as now my miſe-
rie is extream: ſtate ſo appointed that I was wooed and wonne
by a rope-maker, a man I thinke (noother) not vnknotwne vnto
your ſelfe, if ſo; no other cauſe, yet for the hard vſage of his
wiues, and with that the poore woman burſt into bitter teares,
and the olde woman began to ſigh, in uttering her conceit with
an oath, asked if ſhe were the maide that Richard the rope-
maker had married; I am moother quoth ſhe, that vnfortunate
wiue, that was once a maide, whoſe fortunes are made intolle-
rable, by the bad nature of a ſcowerd husband: whoſe cuſtome
is neither at bed or at boord, to ſhew me any good countenance:
if I looke ſoberly, then I am troubled with the ſullen, and
then he wakeneth me with a hollic wand: if I ſalute any of my
neighbours with good-morrow, he ſaſeth they are my Copre-
mates, and then my bones beaces the barthen: If I ſpeake
to

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to none he saith I knowe such as are his friends, and hee will make me sence my tongue: if in my bed I fall a sleepe, being wearied with laboz, he pincheth me wickedly, and calms me downe drunkard: if I ouer-wake him, then he pulls me by the haire of the head, and saith I watch to cut his throat when he is a sleepe: yet mother, these are not the greatest sorowes, for he hath a maide at home which he loues better then mee, and he setteth on his knee before my face, hee cuts her the first morzell of the meate, and oftentimes in the night he setteth from me to goe to her, and in the day if I but wish her to goe to her worke, if she frende, then am I most pittifully beaten, as you may witness with your eyes, and with that shee disconcerted her naked bodie to her, which was all bruised blacke and blew, with stripes, and yet mother (quoth she) these are not the greatest sorowes.

The olde woman tolde at the heart, with the rehearfall of this poore wifes calamities, made her this kinde answer: daughter, inough I knowe by the man much ill, as this lasterne yeares that I haue knowne him, I haue entered into many discomfortes of his villanies, but letting him passe as he is, to the present redress of thy miseries, what, sayes shee, hast thou no friends to goe unto, whose abilitie may counteruaile his curishnes, and bryde him by the lawe for such beaklines? Alas answered she, I haue none but an olde woman and poore like your selfe to my mother, and it greiues me to make a bootlesse complaint vnto her: why then (saith the olde woman) hast thou no friend who for the possession of thy loue may haue him about the pate, and so reuenge thy iniuries? Alas (mother) better had I dye miserably, then dishonestly, I haue none: And saith the olde Patron, I see thou art not strong inough to match him with blowes, and therefore must I lye for thy succour to my last phisicke, whose principles be so authentically and sure, that they neuer misse, therefore tell me, hast thou any woman, that thou dar'st commit thy secrets vnto?

The Raueins Almanack

Another (saith she) two or three his mortall enemies, & my greatest friends: then Daughter feare not (replied the olde Counsellor) but listen well to my aduise: goe thy waies home, & do some thing that may displease him. Alas (saide she) that I may easily doe, for I cannot doe any thing that can please him: but what then, shall I seeke my owne destruction to be beaten: for once daughter (quod she) when thou maist for that beating linc at quiet for euer: But as soone as he offers to strike thee, stand in defiance of him, and say thou hast prayed vnto our Lady for helpe, and she hath promised to helpe thee, and to reuenge all thy iniuries, and therefore bid him if he dares, but once while he liue touch thee a gaine in anger. If then he will swinge thee, beare it patiently, and take this powder that I shall giue thee, and when thou knowest he goes to worke alone by himselfe, giue it him in drinke: the vertue of the powder is to suffocate and choake by his sences, so that he shal not haue any feeling for the space of sixe houres, but hee shall lye like a liuellesse carcaske, and his dreames shall be of women, & Angells: then daughter (& then she whispered many matters in her eares) whether they were charmes or spells I cannot tell, but this I am sure it was some good conceit, for the poore wifc wept for ioy & on her knees thanked the woman for her aduise, and so they parted, she promising to bring her word within ten daies how her phisick had taken effect: well, to be short, meritt goes this good wifc home, & findes her husband dallying with her maide, at which sight her stomacke rose, and began to take him vp sharply, and to sweare that if she tooke her Maide and him so suspiciously together againe, she would complain of him to the Iustices, and cut off her Maides nose for a generall example to such whores as she was.

The Kope-maker (this gentle Richard) pondering at his wifes brutish stomord brawling, began no start vp, and to seeke for a counsell, with that she as a woman resolved to follow her late counseller, made this reply:

Gay brain-sicke villain, strike me if thou darst, for through thy long abuses I haue hartily prayed to our Lady for reuenge
and

The Rauens Almanacke.

and she hath this day appeared to me, and promised me, that if thou dost bee after, but touch the hemme of my besture in anger, she will be auenged vpon thee so extremely, that then thou shalt repent the abuses thou hast proffered me, as long as thou dost liue. Richard smiling at this reply, made his wife this answer: buswile (quoth he) if our Lady haue appeared vnto you, our Lord her sounne hath shewed me a vision, that he that hath an ill wife and will not beat her, shall lead Apes in hell for his laboz, and with that he fell vpon her, and pummeled her so soundly, that he had almost kild her, and she began halfe to repent that she followed the olde wimans counsaile: yet hoping for time to reuenge, she bare all thirgs with the more patience, and finding oportunitie vpon a day or two after to speake with her gossip, she reuealed vnto them the contents of the olde wimans counsaile, whereat they triumphing and glozping in this determination, they promised to plague him, and to performe whatsoeuer should retounde to her commodity, anowing such secrecie, as that it should neuer come out by any meanes whatsoeuer.

Time passing on thus, it fortuned that our Hope-maker, and his maide, were wont euery wecke twice, to goe to a strange house, and there she turned the whele while he turned his Hopes: when their busines was done, what exercise they vled I knowe not: one day amongst the rest, Richard and his maide going alone to this solitarie place, to make their ropes, he commanded his wife to fill them a bottle full of drinke, for he could not returne before night: she glad of this oportunitie, put the dormitarie powder that the olde wife had giuen her into the bottel, which they taking, went their waies merrily together, and the drinke and the powder with fogging was made a merre potion: as soone as they were gone, she slept out and went to her Gossips, and disclosed vnto them the whole matter, and with that she drew cut from vnder her kirtle two three stinged whippes of Cherge and hard twisted cordes, with round knots vpon the ends all to cut the skin with a small stroak, these she bequeathed vnto them, and him-
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The Rauens Almanacke.

by vpon her knees, desired them not to spare for pittie to punish them to the highest extreamtie: they promised to shewe iustice without merrie & especialy one of the who was sister to one of his former wiues, that he had ki'd with kindnesse, who for an olde grudges did intend now to bee fully reuenged: and so they went to the grange house, where leaving them consulting together, and the good wife gone home full of hope, let vs returne to the Hope-maker (Richard and his maide.)

Richard after hee had dispatched some part of his businesse, would to dinner or drinking, and after his waite and he had louingly broken their fast, they would like Doves fall to billing, but hauing drunk soundly of the potion, it began to mortifie their senses, that hee desirous to take a napp, laying his head in his waiters lappe, fell fast a sleepe, and shee as heaue as he, leaning her head on her masters shoulders, was in a deade trance.

When these two Gossips came and found them thus dolefully tumbled together, although they saw them soundly a sleepe, yet were they affraide untill they had made experience of the effects of the potion: so they shooke them; pickt them with pinnes, and vsed all meanes to awake them, but it was impossible, whereupon they grew balde, and pulle off his apparell, not so much as leaving his shirt vpon him, and they fell vnto belabouring of him with their whips, in such monstrous manner that the blood came doونه abundantly from all parts of his bodie, and they cut him with their lashes to the verie sknewes: so then at length they ceas'd, pulled on his apparell as it was before, and drest him vpon verie mannerly, not so much as leaving his points vntrust: or any thing vndone, whereby he might perceiue hee had bene made vncarey.

Hauing thus drest him in his kinde they fell to his waite, and seru'd her with the same sauce that her master was vsed with all, and when they had punished her thoroughly, they drest her againe, laced vp her cloathes, and laide them together as they found them, and went their waies merrily to the Hope-makers house, discoursing vnto their Gossip all what had happened

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men, who tooke of this newes, made them the best cheere in her house, and thanked them heartily for their labours, promising the next day to tell them what her husband would suspend in this tragédie.

Well, the time of the working of the potion being at an end, as they durst together, they began to awake together; but the Maide being youngest, had the strongest sence, and therefore the operation soonest waisted in her, and halfe betwixen slumber and awake about to stretch herselfe as by the foakes doer, her sincke so cleaued to her skin, that the verie smart thereof made her not simply awake but to shriek out, so that when she was come to her self she wondered what she did, that all her fleshy was so soze, so that pulling vp her petticoate and looking vpon her thighs, she found them all in a gaze blood, lacht and cut in with the poyson: a most halfe an inch deepe, which made her to stand in a mase, wondering how she should become so grieuoulye tormented. At last vnlaing herselfe, she found all her body worse, so that she could not lift her hands to her head. Where vpon she cried out and her maister awoke: being halfe in a dreme, and his eyes scarce open, as he was about to stretch him, his shirt claued so to his backe, that he felt intolerable paines.

Oh Isabell (quoth he) what aile I? or where am I? what haue I exempt? and what doe I feele? Alas Maister, I am almost whipt to death since I fell a sleepe. I think it is some accursed Fayrie that haue done this deeds, and shee whetted him all her body, whereat hee fell into bitter teares, and then shee tolde him that shee was laced and braced as shee was before. Alas Isabel (quoth he) helpe mee to vnbutter mee, for I cannot stirre my hand to my bosome I am so soze, then vntrusting him hee found himselfe worse whipt then his Maide, wherevpon hee fel into consideration of the wordes of his wife vsed against him, threatening him that our Lady would reuenge her wrongs, so that he told his maide, no doubt it wasthe Virgine Marie that had thus punished them.

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them both for the wrongs hee had professed against his wife, promising if euer God sent him to his health, hee would neuer strike her again, nor misuse her so long as hee liued. So he desired his Waife to helpe him home, and shee as lame as hee, could scarce rise, yet one of them helping one another, they went creeping home as well as they could.

As they went lamenting home by the way, they mette with the Vicar of the Parish: this olde Sir Iohn meeting his neighbours (and one of his friends and parishioners) in this wofull perplexitie asked him how hee fared:

Oy Pastre Vicar (quoth hee) not as a man of this world: you seeme weak (quoth the Vicar) sit downe and rest you, and tell me where your grieffe lyes, happilre I may giue you some good counsaile. Oy Pastre Vicar (quoth hee) I am in no case to sit downe, I am so beaten with whippes, that I cannot stirre any waynt of my body without paines. Why what ayle you: how should it come so to passe with that the Roper maker told him from point to point what had hapned to him, and to his Waife, and how his wife threatened him the other day, how that our Lady had appeared vnto her, and promised reuenge, and I thinke it is she or some of her holy Angells that hath whipt me and my maide, for we slept but a nappe, and when we awoke, were found neither hand nor foote stirred, no point intrust, no button vnbattened, nothing out of order; and yet our selues so whipt, that I thinke I cannot liue till the morning, wherefore good Pastre Vicar pray for me.

Sir Iohn hearing this, was wonderfully aconied, & wist him to gos home to his wife, to mend his manners, and reconcile him selfe vnto her, and hee would pray for him the next day in the Church: so they parted, and home stembles Richard and his Waife, and comming to the doore found his wife sitting in the entrie at her wheele. She seeing her husband come in so simply and weakely with his Waife, although shee tickled at her heart for joy that they were so well whipt, yet shee saued great sorrowe at their present sight, and throwing downe her wheele for paine ran and met him, and weeping saued teares,

(said)

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said: alas, alas, what ailes my husband? and offered to take him by the arme to stay him: he cryed out, oh wife touch mee not, I am soze sicke and cannot escape death, our Lady at thy request hath giuen me I feare me my deaths wound, for shee hath almoste whipt me and my maide to death: oh wife forgive vs, and pray for vs, and if we euer hap to liue together, I wil lament my life, and become a new man, and neuer speake angrie word to thee againe while I haue breath in my booye: the while seeming passing sorrowfull at this, wisht that our Lady had giuen her so much, so that he had escaped, so helping him in, shee laide him doorne vpon a soft pallet, and came and tolde her Collops what had hapned and how her husband came home and his maide with him. So they came with her halfe laughing among themselves, but to his face pitying the chaire, so that by their helpe his maide and he were holpen to their beds, where when they had lyen a little, and were come to some warmth their fleshy fellow bleeding a fleshy, so that the S^t Gron being sent for to stanch the blood, seeing their woundes, and hearing the strange case, fel in a great amaze with himselfe, and saide, the dooing of God was wonderfull much adoe hee hit to stop the flure of the blood, yet at last he got it stanncht, but they lay in moste miserable perplexitie, almoste daime with the whipping.

After the newes of this (as women are borne blabs) began to goe about the towne, yet the two Collops wondered at it, as much as the rest, and this hapning vpon a saterday, the next day being sunday, (good honest Sir Iohn) came to visite his neighbour, and finding him almost speechles, after some words of comfort vnto him he went to Church, where after the first Lesson, he began a certaine prayer for the health of the Roper-maker, whiche saide lay speechlesse, and at the mercie of God, and that through a strange and wonderfull fortune, and therefore desiring all them that were present to pray for him, he began to take his text out of Saint Peter, how wines should obey their husbands, and husbands cherishe their wines, sith they were but one fleshy, and therein for an example brought

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in the strange aduenture of Richard the Hope-maker, beto hee had shewed himselfe to all his wiues, and so making manifest the wickednes of his life, did tell them what scourges our blessed Lady had taken vpon him in a dreame, and so from point to point discouert vnto them what had hapned vnto him, wishing them by his example to amend their liues, least for bearing their wiues the like punishment fall vpon them. This text no little pleased the wiues of the parish, for they tickled at it, and the men they were amazed to heare of such a wonderfull chance, so that in the after noone, all the parish came to see him and behold him, as if Lazarus had bin risen from the dead, there finding a more pittifull spectacle then maiſter Wickar had told them of, they all saide that as the case was verie strange, so the reuenge was iust, such as were shewes to theire wiues, bit the lip and were aſtraide of our Ladies whipping at last Richard gathering his spirits, and his speeches together, exhorted his neighbours by his example, not to abuse and beate their wiues, telling vnto them the full tale of this Tragedie.

Whis discourse pleased the Wiues, and affrighted the husbands, so that if any in the towne offered to strike his wife, they would straight beto to make her complaint at our Ladies shrine, and so they scape many a sharpe scoure. But to be briefe, Richard lay long sicke and his waide, and his wife tended and comforted them so well, that at length they recovered some part of their strength, and when he was able to walke abroad he humbled himselfe to his wife, and durst not abuse her at his life after, as by chance they had fallen out. She would say straight, wel I say no more, but our Lady requite my iniuries: and then would her husband neuer goe abroad till his wife and hee were reconciled and made friends, so euer after they wearo the breeches, & was Maister, and all the Wiues in the parish feared the better, and were all greater benefactors to the shrine of our Lady, that rescued them from the hands of their iniurious husbands.

And thus with a Rauens quill haue I written this Almanacke, which I yettelich strange, ominous & most diuer events.

I. J.

The Rauens Almanacke.

The plagues where of I haue spoke shall as certainly fall out
as the famine, and Ciuill warres: all three are deadly, all
three are at hand. Make bonfires therefore in your streets, (O
You Citizens) to purge the ayre of all infection albeit you keepe
the inward houses of your bodies neuer so vncleanse it is no
matter. Open your gates to let in the countrie folkes, with
provision, to beate backe famine, but let the markets bee looked
vnto as mens consciences are: that is to say, euerie one to racke
it how he listeth. As for ciuill warres there is good hope they
shall quickly be quenched, because so many hundreds of Con-
stablers watch day and night within the walles to keepe the
peace. But by no means step you in and bee sticklers when
the Church is at larce within her selfe by schismes, or by Her-
esies: or when the husband and wife, the father and son,
the Maister and Seruant, or when any other kinde of the po-
litike body challengeth the combat against him, whom by
nature hee is bound to defend: if any propositions bring thee in
pleasure or profit, thou wilt encourage mee to play the right
Almanacke maker, and in another yeare to sing merrie tunes
of my faire weather, as in this I haue stricke a dull string,
sounding onely stormes. In the meane time suffer my Rauens

(being wearie) to flye to some tree of rest, and there to
prune her selfe of her sicke feathers, which she
hath caught by medling with the disea-
ses of 1609.

FINIS.

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